



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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CIS Executive Secretary Sees Growing Trend Toward Integration

LD2004163095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319
GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Interfax)—The Commonwealth of Independent States is becoming a more efficient instrument for multilateral integration between countries developing on the post-Union space, believes CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Korotchenya. He announced this in an exclusive interview with Interfax when summing up results of the sitting of the Council of CIS Defense Ministers in Moscow Wednesday.

Having given a high assessment to the decision of participants in this meeting to prolong the stay for CIS joint peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan, until the end of this year, Korotchenya declared that in this decision he sees "a common striving to overcome contradictions."

According to Korotchenya, heads of CIS Defense Ministries "have ripened" for more concrete levels of cooperation, based on the will of peoples and support of the leaderships of their countries, and given the nuances of the international situation. Korotchenya believes that many CIS structures "have more serious decisions ahead of them."

Korotchenya believes that at the joint sitting of the Defense Ministers, Foreign Ministers and leaders of CIS-state border forces, to take place in the Russian capital on instruction of Russian President Boris Yeltsin on April 21, it will be possible to adopt efficient decisions, in particular, in the sphere of peacekeeping missions. "The CIS 'hot-spots' are primarily waiting for these decisions from us. The number of these spots should be cut, not increased," he added.

Korotchenya continued, "recently, I had a conversation with authoritative Ukrainian experts. They, in particular, expressed the conviction that the supreme leaderships of their country and of the Russian Federation will find the political will to solve the problems of Crimea and of the Black Sea Fleet's division." Korotchenya underlined that "any issues, including territorial ones, of CIS member states can be solved with the help of permanently-acting mechanisms existing in the Commonwealth." "For example, if we allow the confrontational forces in both countries to clutch at Crimea, then a chain reaction aimed at revision of borders will be triggered throughout the whole territory of the Commonwealth. And this is not far from trouble," Korotchenya said.

Yeltsin Chairs CIS Meeting on Russian Peacekeeping Efforts

LD2004153095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1427
GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Interfax)—A meeting on problems in relations between

Russia and certain CIS member states in the Caucasus was held in the Kremlin on Thursday [20 April] and was chaired by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The president's press service reports that "under discussion were problems concerning Russia's assistance in settling conflicts and the Russian peacekeeping activities."

Taking part were Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, Director of the Federal Security Service (FSS) Sergey Stepashin, and Director of the Federal Border Service (FBS) Andrey Nikolayev, reports the press service.

CIS Defense Ministers Meet on Tajik, Abkhazia Conflicts

LD2104054895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0502
GMT 21 Apr 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—The Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs and the commanders of the border troops of the Commonwealth member-countries are meeting in Moscow today to hammer out a common approach to the situation in Tajikistan and the settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia.

The meeting is being held at a request from Russian President Boris Yeltsin, sources in the press group of headquarters coordinating military cooperation of the member-countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States told ITAR-TASS.

The ministers and commanders will discuss the proposals worked out at the Wednesday meeting of the CIS Council of Defence Ministers.

According to the defence ministers, it is necessary to ensure the further presence of collective peace-keeping forces in the flashpoints across the Commonwealth.

The defence ministers also said that certain stretches of the external frontiers of the Commonwealth need joint protection by the border troops of the Commonwealth member-states.

The defence ministers also expressed concern over the expiry of the term of the peace-keeping forces in Abkhazia. They stressed that it was necessary to ensure implementation of the resolution for the settlement of the conflict in that region adopted by the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth member-countries.

Proposals which are expected to be worked out in the course of the joint session of the councils of defence and foreign ministers and the commanders of the border troops will then be considered by the CIS heads of state in Minsk on May 26.

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Georgian, Abkhaz Leaders Call For Extension of CIS Peacekeeping*LD2104110595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0957 GMT 21 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 21 (Interfax)—CIS foreign and defense ministers and border troop commanders met in Moscow on Friday to back a plea from Georgia and Tajikistan to extend the mandate of CIS peacekeepers deployed there, CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Korotchenya told reporters during a break.

He said the mandate would be extended until the end of this year but a final decision rests with CIS leaders who meet on May 26.

Korotchenya said both Georgian and Abkhaz leaders Eduard Shevardnadze and Vladislav Ardzinba have appealed for the mandate extension.

Kozyrev: Russia Will Not Tolerate Border Killings*LD2004144895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Interfax)—Russia wants peace and will work for success of the dialog between Tajik factions but will not tolerate any more killing of its men on the Tajik-Afghan border, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told a meeting of "the Tajik five" in Moscow Thursday.

The group includes foreign ministers of Russia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Kozyrev expressed his condolences to the families and friends of the Russian servicemen killed on the Tajik-Afghan border. In his words, Russia and the CIS member states will respond with their entire might to every victim. He said that this was the mood of Russian President Boris Yeltsin with whom he had discussed the border situation today.

The meeting was attended by Andrey Nikolayev, head of the Federal Border Guard Service.

Kozyrev Welcomes Resumption of Inter-Tajik Dialogue*LD2004151795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1447 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[By Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 20 (ITAR-TASS)—Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev welcomed today's the resumption of consultations between the Tajik Government and the opposition.

Addressing Thursday his counterparts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan who discussed the situation in Central Asia as a whole and on the Tajik-Afghan border in particular, Kozyrev said that "there is no alternative to a peaceful solution of the conflict by way of talks".

"For this reason, it is very important to support efforts being made in this direction", he stressed.

However, the minister reiterated that Russian border guards in Tajikistan will use all combat means at their disposal to repel Tajik opposition militants.

"We will not tolerate any victims among our people, and assaults on our servicemen will be repulsed with the whole might of the Russian Armed Forces and those of other member countries of the commonwealth," the minister said and added that "the readiness to repel attacks does not in the least contradict peaceful aspirations, but confirms them".

At the end of his speech, Kozyrev said that he presented on Thursday his report on the situation in the area of the Tajik-Afghan border to President Boris Yeltsin who is also the Russian supreme commander-in-chief and the chairman of the council of the CIS heads of state.

Kozyrev said he was sure that the meeting of the foreign ministers from the five CIS countries would be another step to strengthening cooperation, to consolidating peace-keeping forces, to enhancing border protection and, most important, to supporting the negotiating process in Tajikistan for which all necessary conditions have been created.

It is necessary to "think out the problem of strengthening cooperation in jointly guarding the border and protecting the border-guards," Kozyrev said.

Kozyrev Modifies Statement on Intervention Within CIS*LD2104082795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0811 GMT 21 Apr 95*

[By Valeriy Sevryukov, Andrey Urban]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 21 (ITAR-TASS) - CIS defence, foreign and frontier ministers opened a meeting in Moscow Friday [21 April] and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev welcomed them by saying that the meeting "will become a new stage in strengthening the CIS".

Kozyrev, who has recently stated that the use of force is possible in "exclusive cases" to protect Russians abroad, seemed to have played down the threat regarding CIS members. "I am sure that in the post-Soviet space things will never get to the use of force otherwise than in the common interests of our compatriots", he said.

"The commonwealth works at a good pace. We have to resolutely solve all issues and find a political settlement for all problems", he said and expressed hope that the meeting will be "productive."

The ministers are to discuss the situation on the Tajik border, the settlement in Abkhazia and the strengthening of the mechanism of the CIS collective security.

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Yeltsin Considers 'Tough Approach' Toward Ukraine

MM2004153395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 95 p 1

[Article by Mikhail Berger and report by Yanina Sokolovskaya in Kiev under the general heading "Political Altercations Between Russia and Ukraine Will Hit Both States' Economies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian-Ukrainian talks on the Black Sea Fleet are once again deadlocked. As distinct from previous similar situations, however, Russia, to judge from information disseminated by ITAR-TASS, is prepared to be tough with Ukraine. Boris Yeltsin's words in this regard, as reported by presidential aide Dmitriy Ryurikov, appeared as follows: Unless Ukraine moves toward us over the question of the Black Sea Fleet, Russia will evidently reconsider its economic and financial agreements with Ukraine.

A tough approach to foreign policy in the near abroad seems to be becoming increasingly popular in the top echelons of power. Politicians and journalists had not had time to react to Andrey Kozyrev's statement on the possibility of using armed force to defend the Russian-speaking population in the CIS, when Boris Yeltsin threatened to revise the economic agreements with our closest neighbor—Ukraine.

True, things are going no further than declarations at present. But this is the very reason why there is still time to try to assess the possible consequences of such a policy if Russia were to make the transition from words to deeds. Let us consider the possible results of taking a tough approach economically, as something more specific and predictable than the use of military force.

Which agreements, in fact, can we be talking of? It is possible to assume with a high degree of probability that President Yeltsin had in mind the recently signed agreement on restructuring (deferring) the Ukrainian debt. This agreement elicited a highly negative reaction from many parliamentarians and is regarded by its critics as another "sale of the motherland." Meanwhile, in the opinion of a high-ranking staffer on the Russian Government apparatus, this agreement is no less advantageous to Russia than to Ukraine. Until recently the problem of mounting Ukrainian debts had gotten no further than the talks stage. But now Russia has already started getting real, live money from Ukraine. The terms of the treaty are so tough, the apparatus staffer emphasized, that it can be torn up on the very first delay in payments.

In other words, a certain ultimatum-like approach is already enshrined in the agreement with Ukraine, and an extremely tough approach can be taken regardless of the development of the talks on the Black Sea Fleet. So the introduction of an additional political excuse to revise the economic agreement seems superfluous.

Of course, it would create a mass of problems for Ukraine to declare it bankrupt and incapable of repaying debts. The IMF, above all, might suspend the granting of reserve credit to Ukraine. Thus, the threat of "revision" is fraught with very grave economic consequences for Ukraine. But Russia will not get off lightly either. The point is that the agreement on restructuring the Ukrainian debt was part of Russia's complex, multimove game with the IMF, which resulted in a reserve credit of \$6.8 billion granted to Russia by the fund. It cannot be ruled out that, in order to "punish" Ukraine, Russia itself will have to accept punishment.

On the contrary, a solicitous attitude to the agreement on debts promises Russia big economic advantages. One of the leaders of the Ministry for Cooperation with CIS Member States told IZVESTIYA that Russia did not receive a single cent of the \$600 million due from Ukraine last year. Without the agreement the result could be the same this year too. But Ukraine made the first payment three days early—27 March—and will pay \$406 million before 1 September. The agreement on restructuring the debt of \$2.7 billion, apart from securing a real chance of its repayment with interest, enables Russia to substantially increase gas exports to Europe, to resolve the problem of transit payments, and to participate in the privatization of Ukrainian enterprises.

Of course, the treaty also benefits Ukraine, and at first sight it seems possible to use it to exert pressure at the talks on the Black Sea Fleet. Tearing it up, however, could place Ukraine in such a desperate economic position that there will be no question of any "movement" toward us over the problem of the fleet.

Kiev—Boris Yeltsin's words, made public by Dmitriy Ryurikov, about the Ukrainian side's supposedly unconstructive approach to the division of the Black Sea Fleet cannot be said to have alarmed Kiev politicians. They evidently had a premonition that these problems would arise. Kiev was far more troubled by the statement which the Russian president made four days earlier about his concern at the fate of the people of the Crimea. Ukrainian politicians perceived it as "disgraceful interference in Ukraine's internal affairs."

To date no statement by the Ukrainian parties or authorities concerning Yeltsin's "fleet" statements has been made public. IZVESTIYA was told at the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the information about Yeltsin's position came through unofficial channels. It is now being checked out and elucidated by the Ukrainian Embassy in Russia. "If this information is confirmed, Kiev's reaction will be consonant with it."

The president's staff has also decided not to react officially to the Russian presidential aide's unofficial statement. Reliable sources have told us that this question was not discussed at all during the meeting which Leonid Kuchma and Yevhen Marchuk had with heads of deputies' factions.

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Ukrainian Acting Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk himself says that he was satisfied with the results of his meeting with Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin. The contentious point of the borders, included in a large-scale treaty, has at last been agreed with the Russian side. Henceforth it sounds as follows in the version proposed by Ukraine: "The sides respect each other's territorial sovereignty and confirm the inviolability of the borders that exist between them."

Central Asian Presidents Back Enhanced Regional Integration

MM2104110295 Moscow *RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA* in Russian 21 Apr 95 p 4

[Unattributed report from "CIS: Chronicle, Events, Facts" column: "Presidents Speak Out in Favor of Association"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Almaty—Concrete approaches designed to bring more fully into play the available potential for cooperation and also to accelerate the process of integration of the Central Asian states were defined in the course of a working meeting in Chimkent between President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan, and President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan. This is stated in a joint communique by the meeting's participants that has been distributed here.

The document notes that a program was approved for economic integration through the year 2000 between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, which had previously created a single economic area. The presidents of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan declared readiness to join the customs union between Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan.

Askar Akayev and Islam Karimov believe that in the existing sociopolitical conditions the decision to hold a referendum on the question of extending President Nursultan Nazarbayev's term in office is the optimum solution and will help to ensure social stability and the consistent and dynamic implementation of economic transformations for the sake of the well-being and prosperity of the people of Kazakhstan.

The three leaders, having analyzed the development of processes in the economic, political, and humanitarian spheres in the region, noted that a certain legal basis and political prerequisites have now been created for the formation of an association of Central Asian states.

With a view to ensuring stability in the region, the three heads of state deem it expedient to create a joint battalion of peacekeeping forces under UN auspices. They instructed the leaders of government and defense ministers to submit concrete proposals on its formation.

The presidents resolved to support and undertake the necessary efforts in the international arena to promote Kazakhstan's initiative on convening a conference on

collaboration and confidence-building measures in Asia and Uzbekistan's initiative on setting up a permanent UN seminar in Tashkent on problems of security and cooperation in Central Asia.

ITAR-TASS Press Review for 21 Apr

LD2104061395 Moscow *ITAR-TASS* in English 0451 GMT 21 Apr 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—Relations between Russia and Ukraine and Andrey Kozyrev's statement on protection of compatriots abroad are in the focus of attention of most Russian national newspapers.

Every normal state is obliged to protect its national interests. This is a political axiom for every sovereign state, spokesman for the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grigoriy Karasin told the newspaper *ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI*. The newspaper carries statements made by American leaders concerning the protection of U.S. nationals abroad and compares them with the Russian foreign minister's statement.

"The noisy domestic reaction to Kozyrev's statement was prompted by the desire of some politicians to build their own political capital ahead of the elections," the newspaper says. "As concerns foreign reaction, it is largely a reaction from the ears, not from the brains. Andrey Kozyrev simply interpreted an elementary political axiom."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA offers comments by politicians to the foreign minister's statement. Chairman of the Federation Council's Committee for International Affairs Vladimir Podoprighora said, "Andrey Kozyrev is right when he speaks about the possibility of the use of force to protect our compatriots abroad. But a mere declaration of the possible use of force does not add anything". Podoprighora added that "Andrey Kozyrev is performing an important mission of emboldening the state."

Chairman of the State Duma's Committee for Commonwealth Affairs Konstantin Zatulin says that "the government of Russia must rest content with mere statements". State Duma Defence Committee Chairman Sergey Yushenkov believes that the foreign minister's statement was "a logical completion of his switch to positions of national great-power patriotism."

"When all kinds of weapons are fired at you, you can only respond in kind, and it is silly to discourse about political means and inter-state agreements in the situation like this," the newspaper *PRAVDA* stresses. "It is in this context that Andrey Kozyrev's statement should be taken".

"Resolute measures mentioned by Andrey Kozyrev are designed to ensure the necessary conditions for the

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peaceful settlement of the conflict. Continuing encroachments on Tajikistan's border and concomitant declaration of the desire for peace and concord are simply incompatible," says KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star).

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI publish an ITAR-TASS interview with Dmitriy Ryurikov, an aide to the Russian president, who discusses some aspects of the recent meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Ukraine's First Vice-Premier Yevgeniy Marchuk. The presidential aide reports that as concerns the Black Sea Fleet problem, the Russian president confirmed Russia's stance reflected in the earlier agreements with Ukraine on the Black Sea Fleet and expressed the wish for the Ukrainian side "to approach Russia's proposals in a constructive manner". "Unless Ukraine moves to meet Russia halfway, Russia

will probably have to revise its agreements with Ukraine on economic and financial questions," the presidential aide said.

The Russian leader made it clear that the treaty between the two countries would be signed only after the situation in Crimea is fully settled, PRAVDA says.

Commenting on President Boris Yeltsin's meeting with Yevgeniy Marchuk, IZVESTIA notes that "Russian-Ukrainian negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet have once again found themselves in an impasse. But unlike previous cases of this kind, Russia is now ready to be tough with regard to Ukraine".

PRAVDA concludes that a show of toughness "appears to become increasingly attractive to the top echelons of power".

Kozyrev Expresses Condolences Over Oklahoma 'Tragedy'*LD2104083395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0820 GMT 21 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev expressed condolences Friday to his U.S. counterpart Warren Christopher over the tragedy in Oklahoma City.

"This barbaric act of terrorism against innocent citizens and children causes indignation. We at home have quite a few times encountered attempts to destabilise the situation by means of terror, assassinations and provocations", Kozyrev said in his message.

"The most resolute measures are necessary to stop the existing threat which acquires a global scope and which is posed by extremism and international organised crime", Kozyrev stressed.

Russia Seen as Unlikely Target for Muslim Terrorists*MK2104100095 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 21 Apr 95 p 1*

[S.A. report: "The 'Great Satan' Is Being Taken Down for Souvenirs. The 'Little Satan' Can Sleep Quietly"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Work to clear the debris of the demolished administrative building in Oklahoma City continues around the clock. The death toll of the bloodiest terrorist act in U.S. history is nearly 40. Approximately 400 people have been injured. Another 200 are presumed missing. [passage omitted]

So far things have not gone beyond some general hints about the implication of Muslim gunmen, but there should be no problem detecting the perpetrators of the terrorist act. [passage omitted]

It is far more difficult to understand the motives of the organizers of the explosion, of which the "pawn" bombers are most likely not even aware. Their statements, if any are made, usually contain the most general formulations without the indication of precisely how the victim has annoyed them. In this instance the victim is clearly Washington officialdom. The energetic efforts toward an economic and political blockade of Iran stand out the most among its recent actions in the Middle East. For the past six months the United States has been consistently pressuring Moscow and Beijing to scrap the plan to deliver reactors and train personnel for the nuclear installations being built there. Recently under Washington's pressure, Baku refused to give Tehran a share in developing the Caspian oil shelf, while President Clinton personally banned a multi-billion deal by the U.S. oil giant Conoco. A plan is afoot for a full economic blockade of Iran.

It is noteworthy that the wrath of the oriental satraps directing the terrorists is targeted almost exclusively

against America, the "Great Satan" in the classification of the unforgettable Ayatollah Khomeyni. Nothing of the kind can be observed with respect to the "Little Satan," i.e., Russia. It would seem that there is plenty of cause. The valiant federal troops have slain so many true believers, but the Arab capitals have not been able to come up with more than a couple of toothless statements. Even the West, so far away from the Caucasus, seems to be more concerned.

What is the matter? Quite probably the new-fangled Moscow line toward close rapprochement with those Arab regimes which are traditionally ranked as seats of world terrorism. Take those reactors for Iran, the de facto write-off of a huge Syrian debt, and the secret visit by a military delegation to Sudan. Or the restoration of sincere friendship with Baghdad. All these Saddams understand very well that Dudayev is a small and transient figure, while Moscow, rejected by the West, has nowhere to go but into the embrace of its old proven friends. Why bomb friends?

Democratic Union Pickets U.S. Embassy Over Clinton Visit*LD2004132895 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskv in Russian 1200 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Democratic Union of Russia protested against the arrival of U.S. President Bill Clinton in Russia for the celebrations marking victory in World War II. About ten people from the Democratic Union and two Buddhists picketed the U.S. Embassy. Valeriya Novodvorskaya, chairman of the Democratic Union, said that they are protesting against Bill Clinton's arrival in Moscow, since the United States is feeding the regime that has unleashed a bloody massacre in Chechnya. The picket distributed leaflets urging young people to avoid the draft. The spring draft is described as a national catastrophe: The bloodthirsty regime threatens you with a tribunal if you refuse to be killed or to kill. Do not be afraid. They will not be able to hang everyone.

Moscow Against Secret Voting To Extend NPT*LD2004164395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 20 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Interfax)—Russia cannot back the proposals that secret voting be held on the issue of extending the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), a Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing in Moscow today.

He said Moscow was in favor of the New York conference on the NPT, which opened on April 17, being "efficient" and "transparent."

Karasin said the obligation of any government before the world community and its own people was to state its position on the NPT openly and decisively.

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Karasin said the problem concerned security, including on the regional level, and reliability of the conditions for ensuring peaceful nuclear cooperation with non-nuclear countries.

Foreign Ministry's Kokarev on Russia's NPT Policy

LD2004214895 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Russian 2100 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking in Moscow on Thursday, Foreign Ministry official Mikhail Kokarev reaffirmed Russia's insistence that the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] should be extended unconditionally and indefinitely. He said more than half the participants in the New York conference shared Moscow's view. On the 24th of this month Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will speak at the conference as part of the program of his official visit to the United States. Meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, he will go on paving the way for the Russian-U.S. summit in Moscow with Boris Yeltsin when Mr. Clinton goes there to celebrate the 50th V-Day anniversary.

Moscow 'Embarrassed' by Visit of Dudayev Envoy to Germany

LD2004142195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1403 GMT 20 Apr 95

[By Valeriy Sevryukov and Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 20 (ITAR-TASS)—A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Thursday that Russia was embarrassed at Dudayev's envoy recent stay in Germany during which he was allowed a free access to mass media bodies. He used the air to falsify facts about the situation in Chechnya, offend the Russian president, and voice direct threats to the Russian people, Grigoriy Karasin told reporters.

The recent stay in Germany of "a certain Shamseddin Yusef, who described himself as 'Chechen foreign minister'", only aggravates the situation and hinders the process of reconciliation and stabilization which has begun in this region of Russia, the spokesman said.

Karasin said the Russian Foreign Ministry was embarrassed at the stance of official Bonn which had given Dudayev's envoy a free access to local mass media bodies during his German visit.

In his speeches, Yusef "described the Chechen situation in a distorted way, offended the Russian president, and expressed direct threats to the Russian people." Statements by German officials claiming that Yusef was received as a Russian regional representative can not be viewed as acceptable, the spokesman said.

Jordanian citizen Yusef, whose criminal past should not be a secret to the German side, is representing an illegal regime involved in arming fighting with federal authorities, the spokesman stressed.

He expressed hope that in future Bonn would display more circumspection and respect to Russia's stance in such cases.

Spokesman: Vienna Talks May Help Settlement in Balkans

LD2004135695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 20 Apr 95

[By Valeriy Sevryukov and Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 20 (ITAR-TASS)—A meeting of the "Contact Group" under way in Vienna coincides with efforts of an envoy of the United Nations secretary-general for the settlement in former Yugoslavia. This gives reason to hope that the conflicting sides may decide to extend the truce in the region. Spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry Grigoriy Karasin said this on Thursday. He noted that the present truce expires in late April.

If the international community fails to prolong the truce and hostilities are resumed, the quest for settlement in former Yugoslavia will become much more complicated, Karasin said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry hopes the Vienna round will help promote greater understanding of the positions of the sides and will become another step which will help bring closer the settlement through political, not military, decisions, the spokesman said.

Moscow Disagrees With West on Yugoslavia Sanctions

LD2104073595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0649 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—During the debating in the United Nations Security Council on the prologation of partial stoppage of sanctions regarding the Union Republic of Yugoslavia, western countries made a number of additional demands to Belgrade. Russia's permanent Ambassador at the United Nations Sergey Lavrov expressed resolute disagreement with this approach, saying that it raises serious questions.

The Russian ambassador had to remind members of the Security Council of the history of the problem. He noted that in August 1994 the Union Republic of Yugoslavia made a voluntary decision to close the border with Bosnia to all goods except for humanitarian. It was precisely the government of the Union Republic of Yugoslavia that requested the international conference on former Yugoslavia to send an international mission to help implement this decision. In both cases the government of the union republic of Yugoslavia acted on its own initiative, showing the readiness vigorously to assist the international community in the effort to

achieve peace settlement also by bringing pressure on the leadership of Bosnian Serbs to make them alter their unconstructive stand.

Kozyrev Explains Remarks on Russians Abroad

LD2004195495 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1625 GMT 20 Apr 95

[Report by announcer Nikolay Svanidze on interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev; from the "Details" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Begin recording] [Svanidze] Over the last couple of days you simply developed a campaign...[Kozyrev interrupts]

[Kozyrev] I simply said a couple of words, and I did not do anything. They simply fell on stony ground and created a furor. I simply said a couple of phrases and nothing else.

[Svanidze] It was a timely remark.

[Kozyrev] You make a remark, and it is taken out of context later. [passage omitted]

I want to be honest with you. I am annoyed with the reaction of the part of our press—on the one hand, we have gung-ho patriots who are trying to take credit for this statement. My statement has nothing in common with Mr. Zhirinovskiy, with whom I was involved in court, or any other national-patriots. When Rutskoy suggested that planes should be sent to shell Tbilisi with a view to protecting the Russian-speaking population, excuse me, but I regard this as insanity and adventurism. There is a 180 degree difference between my remarks and these calls to use force for imperious aims—in order to punish. I am talking about the extreme case.

And the other part of our public opinion that for some reason immediately falls into...[pauses] I understand when in the Baltics and in other places there is a hysterical reaction, and in the West too, but I am rather offended by our own public opinion, which for some reason thinks that we must not...[leaves sentence unfinished; video shows a page of text headlined: "Selection of comments by U.S. leadership on the use of force in defense of national interests," then further video of Kozyrev in a room] What sort of doctrine is it that we have—one of self-humiliation—of, I do not know—some sort of limited sovereignty? I do not agree with that and I continue to repeat—yes, we are in favor of peaceful means. Yes, we are in favor of using international mechanisms, but if the situation does not leave any other choice this means that force will have to be used. [end recording]

[Svanidze] In my view there is a lot of confusion here. Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev is being mistaken for Sergey Adamovich Kovalev. I can state under oath that there is no reason for this. Kozyrev has repeatedly pointed out that he values his friendship with Kovalev

and this alone proves that they are not one and the same person, but two completely different persons. And their work is different: One defends human rights and the other represents a state with traditions of being a very strong power. Of course, when Kozyrev claims that he has always said what he is saying now, but this is probably not quite accurate. But during the past two years he has really been saying something like this. But every time for some reason this causes a surprise.

[Begin recording] [Svanidze] This statement you made, one may presume, was not agreed with the president, but you know his position on this issue.

[Kozyrev] Yes, I am convinced that it is precisely in confirming Russia's right as any state to protect its interests and its compatriots and citizens within the country and abroad. The president has repeatedly spoken of this. Incidentally, we have a military doctrine that also stipulates the use of the Armed Forces to protect our interests.

[Svanidze] When you made this statement, did you anticipate such a reaction from Ukraine and the Baltics?

[Kozyrev] You know, one has to reckon with the fact that sometimes there is indeed an emotional reaction as, for example, in the case of my friend German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel—I know, he is an emotional man. Sometimes, there is a hysterical reaction in some republics that obviously, I would like to repeat this again, either have or might have problems with part of their own population, inter alia Russian-speaking. What can one do about this?

[Svanidze] In this particular case Kinkel's reaction was rather unpleasant for you because the meaning of what he said was: Well, Mr. Kozyrev has made a statement, but we are not going to pay any attention to it.

[Kozyrev] This is exactly what I mean: A rather strange reaction, an emotional reaction indeed. Why not pay attention? The statement I made was absolutely normal. [end recording]

[Svanidze] The statement almost disrupted the inter-Tajik talks in Moscow yesterday. But this did not happen. The reaction from the head of the opposition, Haji Akbar Turajonzada, was unequivocally harsh. As we found out, however, last night at about midnight the Foreign Ministry received unofficial information from the delegation, but not from Turajonzada, that the talks will continue. Kozyrev took a risk, but his calculation was right, although the risk was perhaps not that great.

[Begin recording] [Kozyrev] Neither Turajonzada nor anyone else will receive any other policy from any other state. If he goes to another state where border guards are being killed, he will be told the same there: Stop killing our border guards and, please, hold talks. The same applies in Moscow. As was agreed, we created all the conditions for the talks. I went there—mind you, it is not always that foreign ministers attend such talks—I went

there to demonstrate respect and our desire to end this present series of attacks and counterattacks, and to move toward a diplomatic settlement. Once again, I insistently recommend to both sides that they should take advantage of our good offices.

[Svanidze] Andrey Vladimirovich, after all your recent energetic statements does it mean you went to the court hearing of your case against Zhirinovskiy in a mood of healthy relaxation?

[Kozyrev] I did not initiate the proceedings. I just spoke on television, as I am doing now. This is called political polemics in a democratic society. However, one of the signs of Fascism, as we know it from the time of Mussolini and Hitler, is to make the legal system work for political censorship, in other words, to stop one's political opponents calling one a Fascist, or a Communist, or a Democrat, or—in our case it was Trotskyists. And leave only one title: A recognized leader of the Russian people.

[Svanidze] As far as I know, Zhirinovskiy has invited you to his birthday party. Will you go?

[Kozyrev] No, thank you very much. I probably will be busy at the time. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Kozyrev Statement on Use of Force Upheld

MM2104081995 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed feature under the general heading "Nobody Chokes on Well-Chewed Political Axiom"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Andrey Kozyrev: "In order to protect our citizens and fellow countrymen abroad there is a wide arsenal of means available to us—from the expression of mild displeasure by anonymous Russian Federation Foreign Ministry spokesmen to the use of political and economic sanctions. There can also be cases when it is necessary to use direct armed force to protect our fellow citizens abroad. How this arsenal of means is employed is another matter. We should not make them an absolute, including the use of force."

Bill Clinton: "The defense of our nation's security—of our people, our territory, and our way of life—is the main mission and constitutional duty of my administration.... Military force remains part and parcel of our nation's might. When our national security interests are threatened we, as America has always done, will use diplomacy whenever possible, but force if we have to...."

Warren Christopher: "The U.S. leadership demands that persistent diplomatic efforts be backed up by an effective threat of the use of force on our part, and also that we be able to act alone, when necessary, to defend our interests. When a decision is made to send troops abroad, we will send them, setting them clear goals and giving them all they need for victory."

Comparing the rumpus caused by Andrey Kozyrev's statement to the statements by U.S. leaders cited above, a natural question arises—what did the Russian minister say that was so special? Why did his statement, which merely enumerates the possible means accepted worldwide for protecting one's citizens abroad, put a number of Western diplomats on their guard and produce a near-hysterical reaction in the Baltic countries? Even in the Russian Duma certain deputies rushed to dub Andrey Kozyrev a "power minister," accusing him of "great-power mania" and claiming that he will complicate our relations with the West.

But a strong minister and a "power" minister are two different concepts. Until recently the opponents of the reformers hated the "boys in pink pants" in the government, whom they accused of cosmopolitanism and liberalism.

Today they no longer like statesmen whose every statement in support of a strong state is taken as evidence of imperial ambitions and a manifestation of authoritarianism. Gentlemen, what are imperial ambitions when it is a question of the elementary norms of international law?

But politicians who are striving for power at all costs hate weak and strong ministers alike. All they need is an excuse to make some pre-election political capital. Those are the motives behind the "domestic" reaction to the minister's statement. As for the foreign reaction, it was more of a reaction of the ears rather than a reaction of the brain. If we forget about the emotion and discuss things soberly, it turns out that Andrey Kozyrev was simply spelling out an elementary political axiom. So nobody is in danger of choking on it.

Opinion of Grigoriy Karasin, Director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department

Every normal modern state has to defend its national interests. That is a political axiom for any sovereign country. This is an extremely broad concept. But one of the priorities which it invariably includes is protection of the rights of the citizens of that state, including its fellow citizens abroad. Russia should not be and will not be an exception to this rule.

On the basis of the commonly accepted norms of international law and world standards of behavior, all states use political, diplomatic, economic, social, and cultural channels to these ends. A generally understood illustration of this would be the consistent organization of collaboration and cooperation between states within the CIS, the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and other international and regional organizations.

But nor can we rule out exceptional situations, when all these means have been exhausted and there may be a need to use organized international pressure and, in certain cases, even to take strong-arm action to protect

one's fellow citizens. But it would be quite wrong to have these extreme measure for protecting our citizens' interests in mind.

It is therefore strange to observe the overemotional, unrestrained reaction abroad to the discussion by Russian political scientists and politicians of possible hypothetical options. I would emphasize that this discussion is being conducted absolutely openly and publicly.

You could get the impression that certain people in foreign countries would not be averse to seeing the new Russia as a state with limited sovereignty which is not even allowed to discuss controversial subjects. I hardly think it likely that it will prove possible to impose such a "state inferiority complex" on us. I am convinced that we will continue to look at the various options available in extreme situations.

Chernyshev: Pan-Tajik Talks To Continue

LD2004171795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 20 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 20 (INTERFAX)—Russia's Foreign Ministry believes that the special meeting in Moscow between an official delegation from Dushanbe and Tajik opposition officials will be continued on Thursday [20 April], Albert Chernyshev, Russia's deputy foreign minister declared in an interview with interfax on Thursday.

He voiced "a profound regret" over the demarche made after the talks opened on Wednesday by the Tajik opposition delegation, led by Akbart Turadzhonzod. The opposition described a speech by the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at the opening session of the pan-Tajik talks as "unacceptable" and "humiliating". Kozyrev declared that Russia "will not put up" with the death of its servicemen on the Tajik-Afghan border and urged the confronting sides to end the conflict as soon as possible.

"The minister said what had been impossible not to say," Chernyshev noted.

He drew attention to the fact that Kozyrev's speech consisted of two parts. "The opposition jumped at the first part and made no mention of the second, voicing Russia's readiness to contribute to settling the conflict in every way," Chernyshev remarked.

He described the opposition's statement that further talks in Moscow are "unacceptable" as an "attempt to bully Russia and the Tajik Government."

"This maneuver is absolutely unacceptable for us," Chernyshev stressed.

He reported that Russian diplomats directly asked the opposition delegation whether it was leaving Moscow. "The answer was no. The delegation stays on in Moscow. On Thursday, the meeting will be continued. It promises to be tough," Chernyshev said.

Moscow Links Georgian-Abkhazian Settlement to Refugees

LD2004181995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 20 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 20 (INTERFAX)—Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov believes that "there can be no political settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict without the solution of the refugee problem." He made this statement answering an interfax question at the joint news conference in Moscow Thursday with the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz Conflict Eduard Brunner.

Pastukhov said that "through the fault of the Abkhaz side the return of the refugees stopped and the state of affairs is close to nil." At the same time, he expressed the firm intention of the Russian leadership "to break the deadlock and achieve that the refugees resume their return to their homes."

Pastukhov said the problems on refugees was so painful that it could be discussed on any level and that its discussion could be categorical. He made it clear that he meant the ultimatum by Tbilisi that Georgian refugees be returned to Abkhazia by May 15. He said, at the same time, that he was against extremist calls launched by some politicians speculating on the misfortune of refugees.

He said refugees should have been returned home long ago. Pastukhov regretted that every time the issue was discussed some artificial or even provocative barriers were emerging.

Pastukhov said that the conflict "is too protracted and a breakthrough is needed." He said "in a day or two" it is planned that the content of an agreement will be defined, which is being drafted by the Russian side jointly with Brunner and in contact with the conflicting sides.

Pastukhov said that consultations are being held in Moscow between representatives of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides under the auspices of the UN and with Russian mediation.

For his part, Brunner, who on Thursday held consultations with Pastukhov and with representatives of the conflicting sides, has said that the solution of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict should be based on respect for

the territorial integrity of Georgia without any separatism. He said that it is also necessary to take into account "the legitimate right of the Abkhaz people to live in peace on their territory."

Brunner expressed the view that the solution of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict is impossible without Russia's active participation. "The decision should be based on cooperation of the conflicting sides with Russia," said Brunner.

Political Issues**Presidential Press Secretary Says Yeltsin's Health 'Good'***LD2104062395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0558 GMT 21 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 21 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Today, Presidential Press Secretary Sergey Medvedev made a statement in which he denied rumors and deliberate conjectures on the state of President Yeltsin's health.

Speaking in detail about the latest medical examinations, Medvedev says that the president's personal doctors "draw the conclusion that the state of health of Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin is good at present. It allows him to remain physically active and maintain the capacity for work at a level appropriate to his age."

Further on Yeltsin's Health*LD2104074195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0707 GMT 21 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin is healthy enough for his age of 64 and suffers only from blood pressure fluctuations which can be controlled by doctors, according to presidential spokesman Sergey Medvedev.

"Doctors of the president conclude that at present the state of health of Boris Yeltsin is good. It allows him to retain physical activity and work capability at the level corresponding to his age", Medvedev said in a statement Friday aimed to dispell "rumours and inventions" in mass media.

The president has "signs of vegetative-vascular dystonia of the hypertonic type, but fluctuations of the blood pressure can be controlled by medicines", Medvedev said quoting a medical report about a recent check-up of the Russian leader.

"Doctors discovered no malfunctions of the main internal organs", he added.

The spokesman said that after the president had returned from his spring vacation several media began to speculate about the state of his health "which is being used by those political leaders who have already launched their struggle for the presidential post".

Yeltsin Endorses Constitutional Commission's Composition*LD2104095995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0932 GMT 21 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday

[20 April] endorsed the new composition of the provisional commission for the observance of citizens' constitutional rights and liberties. The 18-member commission is headed by Valentin Kovalev, the Russian Justice Minister. Deputy speakers of the Federation Council Ramazan Abdulatipov and Anatoliy Dolgoplatov were endorsed as the commission's deputy heads.

Yeltsin Staffer Expects No 'Election Surprises'*MK2104101095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 21 Apr 95 p 2*

[Report by Yelena Tregubova under the "Prognosis" rubric: "President's Staff Does Not Expect Election Surprises. Regional Authorities Will Presumably Back 'Stability Supporters Team'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sergey Samoylov, deputy chief of the president's staff administration for work with territories, in a talk with your SEGODNYA correspondent, announced: "In light of the impending presidential elections," presidential structures have opened vigorous consultations with heads of Federation components and presidential representatives in the regions—"in order to analyze the sociopolitical situation in the regions and influence it if possible."

Sergey Samoylov thinks there are several hopelessly conservative regions—for example, Tambov, Bryansk, Amurskaya Oblast, and Kurgan—where, "no matter what you do, out-and-out wheeler-dealers will get through." He is convinced that the federal authorities' main task in the other regions is not even to campaign for some certain political party, but to see to it that there is a high turnout—that young people and those slightly older come to the polls. The presidential staff official recalled that, during the previous elections for federal parliament, "there took shape a paradoxical situation where our future was being elected by our past: coming to the polls were mainly pensioners, and they voted in line with the old stereotypes." As a result, the balance of forces in regional legislative assemblies "far from reflected sentiments in the regions." In Mr. Samoylov's words, consultations with regional leaders indicate that "a bigger turnout among the young people in the regions may be prompted by the appearance of new politicians who could probably create a new unified bloc."

As for regional heads themselves, Sergey Samoylov vouched, during the elections, "they will gamble on a unified centrist bloc which will most probably be formed by this coming fall out of movements such as "Stability," the Party of National Unity and Accord, New Regional Policy, "Yabloko," and probably "Women of Russia" and so on. In the past, the heads of regional administrations (most of whom belonged to the old party elite), in Samoylov's expression, "were waiting for the old regime to come back any time now," and for this reason they were sabotaging government policy. Today, they "well sense the stability" of the regime, and now "only few

governors are trying to go against the wind." A vast majority of them "have begun to play for the team of advocates of stability."

As the president's staff official said, "Although it is too early to speak about a concrete lineup of forces in the elections, one can guarantee that the fascists are not going to win." "And one can generally vouch that there will be no surprises in these parliamentary elections.... Nor will there be any in the presidential elections," Sergey Samoylov added. He "once again, incidentally," vouched that the president's staff "is hatching no plans to postpone the elections."

There will be no "large-scale" elections at all for the upper chamber—the Federation Council—because, under the Constitution, it is "formed" out of representatives of regional authorities rather than elected. It is most likely that this coming December, those becoming members of the new senate "by virtue of their positions" will be one representative of the legislative branch and one representative of the executive branch of each region. Later, as is presumed in the president's staff, there will be "a gradual rotation" of senators—for example, 56 regions are supposed to have new elections for their legislative assemblies next spring.

As for elections for the heads of regional administrations, according to Samoylov, they will most probably be called by special presidential edicts since a law on the election of governors "is unlikely to be passed soon." The president's staff spokesman expects that governors will be elected "in three stages." The elections may take as early as this summer "in the more stable regions." Administration heads in few other regions will be elected concurrently with the December elections for the State Duma. Elections for governors in the third group—in "depression-hit regions" (probably Sakhalin, Altay, Saratov Oblast, and several other areas), will be held "in 1996 or even in 1997." In the meantime, the president and the government intend to "put these depression-hit regions under special control and show special care for them" so as "to prevent certain political forces from taking advantage of the difficulties found there."

Kozyrev Defends Comments About Zhirinovskiy

MM2104122395 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Nikita Vaynonen: "Lawyer's Son Frightened by the Law"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev made a statement in Moscow's Krasnopresnenskiy [Rayon] Court concerning the suit brought against him and the NTV television company by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who deemed that the assessment of the views of the head of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] expressed by the minister during the Itogi news program on 23 January 1994 "does not correspond to reality." Kozyrev described those views at

the time as fascist. When he appeared in court Kozyrev supported his assessment with detailed arguments based on those features of fascism which are essentially well known and which have now received authoritative confirmation in the conclusions drawn by the Russian Academy of Sciences in the context of the Russian Federation president's of 23 March 1995 Edict on Combating Manifestations of Fascism and Political Extremism in Russia.

Fascism is the ideology of extreme nationalism and national exclusiveness. In his book "Last Dash to the South" Zhirinovskiy sets peoples against each other, demanding privileges and extra living space for one, taking land away from another, while denying yet another the right to exist at all. To satisfy his own ambitions he is ready to sacrifice the Russian people, turning them into an instrument of aggression and into cannon fodder. Hitler did the same with the Germans. At the same time Zhirinovskiy is ready to hand out Russian land, right, left, and center. Andrey Kozyrev said that he had never encountered such blatant Russophobia even among the most rabid enemies of Russia abroad. Fascism professes even more contempt for other peoples than it does for its own. Kozyrev quoted the plaintiff as follows: "Nothing would happen to the world even if the entire Turkish nation perished."

Fascism means anti-Semitism. Zhirinovskiy's party, in a special statement, Kozyrev recalled, had demanded that the word "fascism" be virtually expunged from the political lexicon, as Italian fascism, from which the term derives, had nothing to do with anti-Semitism. In actual fact, so-called race laws came into force in Italy in 1938 whereby people of Jewish nationality were forbidden to take any state posts whatsoever. Around 7,000 Jews from the Rome ghetto were exterminated in German concentration camps. While anti-Jewish documents bearing the LDPR name are distributed in the Russian State Duma today: It is claimed, for example, on the basis of far-fetched "calculations" that Jews have occupied "around 70 percent of jobs in the prestigious and highly paid professions, that is to say, 1,000 times more than is their due."

Fascism is the ideology of aggressive wars. Zhirinovskiy wipes entire states, like Pakistan and Bangladesh, off the map; dismembers Afghanistan and Turkey; and joins the CIS states to Russia. "I cannot accept this," Kozyrev said, "either as a citizen or as foreign minister, who has to see to it that good relations are maintained with sovereign states." Fascism means violence, the violence by means of which a "new order" is established in whole regions: In Zhirinovskiy we find clear-cut "proposals" to carve up the world among the leading powers. Finally, in the words, writings, and above all the practice of the LDPR, the faction, and their leader Kozyrev picked out features characteristic of their spiritual fathers such as demagoguery in general (populist promises incapable of realization) and chauvinistic demagoguery in particular (the appeal to a sense of national humiliation), a

shocking, defiant style of conduct, a fondness for causing a stir as a means of waging political struggle (Mussolini was well known as an ideologue of political hooliganism), intolerance of other ways of thinking, and a desire to exact retribution from political opponents—the last by the use of state means of coercion. In this regard Kozyrev himself adjudged the fact of Zhirinovskiy's taking court action (let alone his direct threats) as an attempt to use the organs of the state, in this instance the judiciary, to settle scores with a political opponent and make him keep quiet rather than conducting an argument with him, as is customary in a democratic society. After all, a court cannot make anyone renounce his political views or assessments, the right to which is granted everyone under the Constitution. This is not, Kozyrev said, the first time that Zhirinovskiy has applied to the courts on this issue in an endeavor to secure one thing: a judicial ban on any evaluations of him other than those which he himself deems it necessary to give himself. If a member of the government and a deputy of the Duma is punished for an undesirable assessment of him, then how other politicians, journalists, and plain citizens are going to fear him! How will they treat the undesirables if they come to power? They will certainly condemn them not only for having wrongly described him but also for not having described him as they should, for example, as "the acknowledged leader of the Russian people" (this definition is used in official LDPR documents). The foreign minister also considers that Zhirinovskiy's actions do direct damage to Russia, including damage in the international arena.

The court sat to consider Zhirinovskiy's action against Kozyrev yesterday for the sixth time. The plaintiff declined to appear. But his attorney, S. Belyak, attempted to wreck the court sitting. Saying that he had to compare the complaint with the transcript of the defendant's words uttered on air, the attorney began reading the documents, making the court and foreign minister wait a pretty long time while he examined them. After which he stated that the texts did not coincide and that he had either to reformulate or even withdraw the action, and he therefore asked for an adjournment. The attorney made other attempts to obstruct Kozyrev's statement. They did not work. The hearing of the case will continue 5 September.

Lukin Warns Political Process Could Go 'Middle-Asian'

LD2004183395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1643 GMT 20 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 20 (INTERFAX)—Chairman of the State Duma committee on international affairs Vladimir Lukin has warned that the political process in Russia could go the "Middle-Asian

way" including the postponing of elections, the limiting of democratic rights and liberties, and so on.

He told Interfax in an interview today that, according to analysts, this could happen after the western leaders participating in the victory day celebrations displayed "another advance in friendship" and left Moscow.

Lukin welcomed the fact that the leading western powers had not referred to various circumstances, including the events in Chechnya, and had decided to come to Moscow thus correcting the "obviously silly acts" committed last year when D-day was celebrated.

He said the western leaders had shown that they could cope with the public's negative reaction to the Chechen campaign. He said that there were limits of the west's counteract. Lukin said the public there were still negative on the events in Chechnya. He said the public's position was even more negative as more rumors about the atrocity of the Russian Army and violations of human rights were coming. Lukin said all such allegations must be properly checked.

Lukin said the visit of so many top officials proved that Russia was being taken into account.

Lukin said he believed that finally Russia would be assessed not by evaluating the local situation in one of its constituent members but according to the development of the situation in the country as a whole.

Lukin said the west highly appraised the position of Russian President Boris Yeltsin who had decisively spoken in favor of developing constitutional democracy, including the holding on time of the presidential and parliamentary elections. He said this had created some counterbalance to Russia's Chechen problems.

Lukin said that at the same time the west still believed that this was just a tactical move to attract western leaders to Moscow. He said the west feared that after the celebrations the president would soon forget about the promises. He said that if such a thing happened Russia would find itself in the difficult situation of a morally and political isolated country.

Lukin said Russia had problems with Japan and China as well as very serious problems on the border in Middle Asia, difficult problems in the caucasus, with Ukraine and with the Baltic states. He said that Russia would inevitably face a political disaster if, to these problems, problems with the U.S. and other great powers were added, and if Russia showed that it was distancing itself from its voluntarily-chosen democratic course.

Lukin said that in such a case western, eastern and Moslem coalitions against Russia, "united or parallel," were likely to increase.

Lukin said, "constitutional issues are primarily our internal affair. however, the situation is such that this also concerns our national security."

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Moscow Mayor Withdraws Lawsuit Against Interior Minister

LD1404145795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1330 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 14 (Interfax)—Moscow's Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov on Friday withdrew from the Supreme Court his lawsuit against the Interior Minister Viktor Yerin. The mayor turned to court because of the illegal, to his mind, dismissal of Vladimir Pankratov from the post of Moscow's police chief.

Pankratov was sacked by an order, signed by Yerin on March 4 soon after the murder of TV journalist Vlad Listyev.

Luzhkov stopped his legal action because by a new order on April 12 Yerin had met Pankratov's request to resign from law enforcement bodies "of his own accord." Besides, Yerin's previous order on sacking Pankratov was recognized in the new order of April 12 "invalid."

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Moscow Offers Talks With Chechnya 'Without Preconditions'

LD2104094695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0920 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By Sharip Asuyev and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 21 Apr, (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Government confirmed its determination to "enter into negotiations with the command of the armed formations opposing the federal troops in Chechnya with the aim of reaching agreements on a cessation of combat activities by both sides without preconditions."

This is said in an appeal issued by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to the Chechen people, read at the conference on the reaching of national accord in Chechnya that opened here today.

Chernomyrdin assured the Chechen people that "there will be no persecution, let alone repressions. The federal authorities guarantee amnesty to those who were misled and took part in the armed resistance."

Soskovets on Chernomyrdin's 'Important' Appeal to Chechnya

LD2104135495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1339 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—First Russian Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets has described as important the appeal of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to the Chechen people. The

appeal stresses the readiness of the federal government for unconditional negotiations with field commanders.

This appeal "will much help the process underway within the framework of the state commission for restoration of Chechen economic and social spheres," Soskovets told correspondents here today.

In his words, railroad traffic was resumed today between the Chechen town of Gudermes and the Dagestan capital of Makhachkala. Referring to a telephone conversation with Azeri leader Heydar Aliyev, he said that the first train will pass through Dagestan to Baku today. Some 4,000 tones of cargo will be transported every day.

Grachev Says Longer Military Service Necessary

LD1404085295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0832 GMT 14 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Guskov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kostroma April 14 TASS—The increase of the duration of the military service from 18 months to two years is not the whim of a military but a measure which is necessary as military units are undermanned, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said. Grachev is concluding a working visit to units of Strategic Rocket Forces. At a meeting with journalists in Kostroma he commented of the amendments and supplements to the law "On Military Duty and Military Service" passed by the State Duma on April 7. The endorsement of the Federation Council and the president is now needed.

The minister said there should be equal obligations for all without exception. Children of high officials and citizens with high incomes should not be excepted from military service.

Grachev gave "only satisfactory mark" to social protection of servicemen. With the present salary they cannot afford to live well, Grachev said. He pointed out that the problem of providing housing for officers remains unsolved. The law envisages the right to housing, but the pace of construction and funds allocated for this purpose are inadequate. This does not depend on the Defence Ministry alone. The main thing in solving these problems is effective legislation, the minister believes. It should protect officers so their minds should be free of care for home when fulfilling orders.

Grachev is today expected at a Military Space Forces unit stationed in the city of Mirny, the locality of the Plesetsk cosmodrome and facilities of the test missile range of the Military Space Forces, ITAR-TASS reports from Arkhangelsk. A training launch of the "Topol" ballistic missile is planned there.

Units of the Leningrad Military District are manned with soldiers and sergeants only to 50 per cent, ITAR-TASS reports. According to the information of the

Municipal Military Commandant Major-General Anatoliy Obukhov, only 13 per cent of young people are to be called up. A third of them are found unfit for military service for health reason. The spring call-up into the Army is slack. Neither the contractual system nor the toughening of measures against draft dodgers have yet achieved results. So far only every fifth youth is to be drafted. Others are granted a call-up deferment for some or other reason.

Government Forms Defense Order for 1995

LD1204192195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 12 (Interfax)—First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin said a government meeting had formed the 1995 defense order Wednesday. The order will be finally approved next week, he added.

According to the document, a total of 10.275 trillion rubles will be set aside from the budget for purchase of arms and hardware. Another 2 trillion rubles of budget funds will be used to repay delayed wages. Kokoshin said the money had started to come to defense enterprises since the start of this week.

At the same time, Kokoshin admitted that the state's actual debt to the defense complex totalled 3 trillion rubles in 1994.

Kokoshin emphasized that the defense order did not exceed the budget-envisioned military expenditures for this purpose, though Defense Ministry experts believe them insufficient for normal functioning of the industry. However, this money will at least ensure its uninterrupted work.

Russian, Foreign Secret Services To Ensure V-Day Security

MK1504083495 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLET in Russian 15 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Stop the Presses!" rubric: "Snipers From Foreign Special Services Have Started Making Themselves at Home on Moscow Roofs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Starting next week Moscow will be in for an influx of snipers, demolition experts, and specialists in short-range firefights from the world's best special-purpose units.

Throughout the end of April and the beginning of May, downtown Moscow will host joint exercises by Russian and foreign special services. On our part, the exercises will involve the Special Operations Directorate of the Federal Security Service [FSB], the Presidential Security Service's [SBP] Armed Protection Center, and the "Alfa" special-purpose unit of the Russian Federation Main Protection Directorate [GUO].

Foreign special services will send to Moscow such special-purpose units as Germany's GSG-9, "Black Cat" of the U.S. Treasury Department's Secret Service, the U.S. Defense Department's "Delta" force, and MOSSAD's special anti-terrorist unit.

The Russian and foreign special services will practice joint anti-terrorist operations on the eve of the Moscow visits by government delegations to attend ceremonial festivities on Victory Day's 50th anniversary.

Even at this stage, special-purpose units of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Russian special services are holding training sessions on Poklonnaya Hill. Foreign bodyguards and our Chekists are checking out attics, roofs, and underground tunnels. Stands built on Poklonnaya Hill for the festivities are guarded 24 hours a day not only by the police, but also by the special services.

Disgruntled Soldiers Could Pose Security Threat

MK1504085995 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Igor Korotchenko under the "9 May" rubric: "Participants in the Military Parade Will Be Supervised by Special Services. Everything Is Being Done To Exclude the Possibility of Any Attempts on the Lives of Russian Federation Leaders"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The considerable rise in the number of those who are unhappy with the president's and the government's policy among Russian Army officers and generals is now compelling the authorities to pay close attention to the problems of providing security during the military parade in Moscow in commemoration of 50th anniversary of Victory. As is known, the parade will be held on Poklonnaya Hill, with the participation of students of military academies, troops of the Moscow Military District (MMD), and several joint units from the Armed Forces' various branches of service. In addition to marching servicemen, it is planned to display armored military equipment, while combat planes of MMD Air Forces will be flying low in the sky over Kutuzovskiy Avenue. This will be the first military parade where the president will be present as the supreme commander of Russia's Armed Forces. Unlike in Red Square, however—where, on the morning of 9 May, Boris Yeltsin will watch war veterans marching in columns—everything linked with the events on Poklonnaya Hill will be closely supervised by the special services—the Main Protection Directorate (GUO), the Presidential Security Service (SBP), the FSB, and the MVD.

As world experience shows, in a situation of radical political changes and general instability, any direct contacts with a disgruntled army may sometimes cost state leaders their lives. The classic example is the assassination of Egypt's President Anwar al-Sadat by army conspirators at a military parade. Another example is Pakistan's President Zia ul-Haq, who was blown out of the sky in a Pakistani Air Force transport aircraft.

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On 9 May, a humiliated army will be marching in Kutuzovskiy Avenue—one deprived of the tangible results of its victory by politicians: The Warsaw Treaty and the Soviet Union no longer exist; one of the mightiest military machines in the world has been completely demolished; and Russia is on the verge of military and political isolation, with NATO planning to build a new "cordon sanitaire" along its borders. The army's top leadership is pervaded by corruption, while officers have become poverty-stricken. The troops have been withdrawn from the Near Abroad in an unprecedentedly short time, under local nationalists' slogans: "Suitcase—Railway Station—Russia." It is easy to guess, therefore, what the army's feelings are toward those who will be standing on the reviewing stand during the parade.

Probably for that reason, work to prevent possible outrages has started already. At this stage, the FSB's Military Counterintelligence Directorate is studying the sentiments of participants in the parade in order to detect unreliable persons as well as potential plotters. All of them—under specious excuses—will be barred from participating in the festivities. Immediately before 9 May, military counterintelligence officers, together with GUO staffers, will inspect every armored vehicle to make sure that there is no ammunition, grenade throwers, or automatic small arms.

All prominent army leaders, who have shown themselves not very loyal to the president, will be under close supervision. On the parade day, the area around the site will be surrounded by presidential special services officers—in paired details—in civilian clothes. The "Alpha" antiterrorist group will be on the alert, with its snipers located on the roofs of buildings on Kutuzovskiy Avenue and in the museum complex.

On 8 and 9 May, all military aircraft flights—except for those participating in the air show—will be banned within the Moscow air zone. Any planes violating this ban will be forced to land or will be shot down by MMD Air Defense fighters. Everything will be done to exclude the possibility of an attempt on the lives of Russia's political leadership.

Yeltsin Edict Tightens Controls Over Recycling Nuclear Fuel

LD2004172895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1613 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Interfax)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed the decree "On Additional Measures To Toughen Control of the Implementation of Environmental Security Requirements When Recycling Used Nuclear Fuel" Thursday.

The presidential press office told Interfax that the decree was designed to ensure the environmental safety and protect personnel from ionizing radiation when recycling nuclear fuel.

According to the decree, the federal executive bodies' top priority will be to control enterprises' handling of used nuclear fuel coming from domestic and foreign nuclear power plants for recycling and to ensure the protection of personnel and environment from radiation.

The Russian government will develop and approve a procedure within three months for Russian recycling enterprises to accept used nuclear fuel from foreign nuclear power plants for eventual recycling and return of nuclear waste and by-products.

The Federal Nuclear and Radiation Security Supervising Committee, State Sanitation and Epidemiological Committee, Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Ministry and Health Care and Medical Industry Ministry will ensure the control of nuclear and radiation security requirements on all stages of handling used nuclear fuel, waste and by-products.

The decree comes into force once signed, the presidential press office reported.

New System To Control Nuclear Materials Designed

LD1304104295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1002 GMT 13 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Arzamas-16, Nizhniy Novgorod region April 13 TASS—An automatic system for registration and control over fissionable materials will make it possible to verify any time the place of storage and amount of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium. Within this year the automatic system will go into use at Russian facilities of the nuclear weapons complex. ITAR-TASS learned this from Georgiy Skripka, technical supervisor of the project, chief of department of the federal nuclear centre "All-Russia Experimental Physics Research Institute", at Arzamas-16.

The system was designed by experts of the federal nuclear centre and the Los Alamos National Laboratory, United States, with financing by the U.S. side.

Registration of nuclear materials has begun in Russia from the moment this work started. Not a single case of the loss of weapons-grade uranium or plutonium has occurred over this period. The reliability of Russian systems of nuclear safety is confirmed by U.S. experts.

Nevertheless, nuclear scientists in Russia and the United States decided to pool efforts to modernise means of verification and safety protection. This is the linked first of all with the overall development of technology. The new situation in Russia—the growth of crime and erosion of discipline—plays a part.

The new system can be used at an individual plant and for a whole region or a whole country, experts of the

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centre believes. An operating model resulted from the joint work. Installing the system at a definite defence project the Russian side will not be informing U.S. colleagues of components of the system used in any given case, so it will be possible to keep state secrets, Skripka said.

The cost of the system will depend on components used, Skripka said. Average expenditures amount to hundreds of thousand dollars. Therefore financial problems are the only obstacle to broad introduction of the system.

Nuclear Material Monitoring System Updated With U.S. Help

MM2104134295 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Apr 95 First Edition p 8

[ITAR-TASS report: "Corded Plutonium"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new system for monitoring the recording and protection of nuclear materials has been developed at the Russian nuclear center of Arzamas-16.

An automated system for recording and monitoring fissionable materials will make it possible to precisely monitor the whereabouts and quantity of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium at any moment in time. In the course of this year elements of the new system will appear at Russian nuclear weapons complex facilities.

The model has been developed by the All-Russia Experimental Physics Research Institute in conjunction with the Los Alamos Laboratory (United States). The project is being funded by the American side. According to Georgiy Skripka, section chief at the Federal Nuclear Center of the All-Russia Experimental Physics Research Institute, in Russia the recording of nuclear materials has been conducted most strictly since work in this field began, and throughout this time not a single case of weapons-grade uranium or plutonium going missing has been detected.

Nevertheless the two countries' nuclear scientists are aware of the need to modernize existing monitoring system. Other incentives are the rapid development of information systems and the growth of crime in the country.

The new system keeps track of every nuclear material storage facility down to individual containers, each of which it is proposed to "tie up" with a special cord. A computer will sound an alarm at the slightest unauthorized touch of this cord.

New Alarm Systems May Be Fitted to Nuclear Power Plants

LD1404160995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1455 GMT 14 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Arzamas-16 April 14 TASS—It is not excluded that Russian nuclear power plants may soon have new alarm systems. The systems are made by the local Avangard electro-mechanical plant whose major function is to assemble and dismantle nuclear warheads, deputy plant director for commerce Leonid Kurilenko told ITAR-TASS.

The alarm systems made by the plant have been installed in Moscow Kremlin, the armory, the mausoleum, the government dacha in Foros and at some sections of the Russian state border.

The plant is under conversion. It is selling alarm systems to various clients. The automatic alarm systems vary from the most simple models meant for cars through super-complicated designs made for the state border and government buildings. The price is from 100,000 rubles (20 U.S. dollars) through two billion rubles (400,000 U.S. dollars).

This year the Avangard plant will make 22 billion rubles worth of consumer goods, including furniture manufactured by the workshop which previously made packing for nuclear items. Avangard is Russia's only producer of artificial kidney installations.

National Security 'Scrupulously Observed' at Arzamas

LD1404084595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0812 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Arzamas-16 April 14 TASS—"Not a single physicist, working on nuclear weapons, has sought permanent residence abroad," ITAR-TASS was told today by Yuriy Tumanov, first assistant director of the Arzamas-16 Federal Nuclear Centre. He also said that no disclosures of state secrets have been recorded. The interests of national security are being scrupulously observed even in the present-day conditions of greater openness and expanding international cooperation.

Arzamas-16 has a special system for this purpose, which dependably protects it from potential "foreign" and "home" malefactors. It protects both the secrets and the secret parts of products, as well as the fissionable materials.

All the population of Arzamas-16 and the town's guests have to sign a commitment not to disclose state secrets. People linked with secret research are subjected to special checks at the Federal Security Service when they travel abroad. It determines the extent of their knowledge of state secrets. People who are most closely connected with secret research are not allowed to undertake private trips abroad. This ban remains in force on the average for five years after they quit secret jobs. Scientists, who possess information of particular importance, are allowed to go abroad only as members of delegations and with the personal permission of the minister for nuclear energetics. However, their trips inside the country are not restricted.

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According to the law on state secrets and the Russian criminal code, disclosure of state secrets or loss of secret documents "without signs of espionage or treason" is punished by an 8-year prison term. In cases when such signs exist, the punishment may be even more severe, including the death penalty.

But the nuclear scholars are kept in check not only by severe legislations. "Even today, when the average wages at the federal nuclear centre equal to only 300,000 roubles a month (about 60 U.S. Dollars), the highly skilled experts remain loyal to their duty, display a high sense of responsibility and patriotism," Tumanov stressed.

Official Views Security Measures at Arzamas Nuclear Center

LD1404135395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1301 GMT 14 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Arzamas-16 April 14 TASS—The number of attempts to illegally enter the closed zone of the federal nuclear research centre, located here, has doubled as compared to last year's figure, ITAR-TASS was told today by Yuriy Yakimov, assistant director of the centre. However, he believes there are no reasons for concern about the safety of fissionable materials. Most of the violators are simply hooligans. Moreover, a potential thief is bound to be stopped at the next barrier, even if he manages to overcome the first one.

Yakimov said that Arzamas-16 was protected by a three-level system of physical protection, meeting the requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency. All the territory of the closed zone (232 square kilometres) is surrounded by a multi-tier "fence", equipped with a special alarm system. One can enter it only through guarded checkpoints and on presentation of properly made out passes. Each of the several production areas, occupying a total of more than thirty square kilometres, are also provided with protection "fences". The access system is even tougher there. Some buildings in these areas, where the most secret and dangerous research is done, have separate fences with special alarm systems. There is a sentry guarding their entrance, in addition to a spate of various technical protection means.

Yakimov noted that passes to visit each premise were issued by the Arzamas-16 security service. Such passes have to be issued to absolutely everybody, including Aleksey II, the patriarch of Moscow and all Russia. The head of the Russian Orthodox Church pays daily visits to Arzamas-16, where the Sarovsk Hermitage, an important religious centre, used to be located.

Access of foreign citizens is restricted not only to the closed zone of Arzamas-16, but also to several adjoining territories. Permission to enter them is issued in each

concrete case by the minister for nuclear energetics after due consultations with the Defence Ministry and the Federal Security Service.

ITAR-TASS has learned that one out of every four foreigners, visiting Nizhny Novgorod region, where the nuclear centre is located, was linked with his country's special services, and that foreigners had periodically made "collaboration offers" to Arzamas-16 employees.

Camera Crew Visits Plant Producing Topol Missile

MM1304151395 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 8 Apr 95

[From the "Vremya" newscast: video report from Votkinsk missile plant by Vladimir Polozhentsev, identified by caption]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Polozhentsev over video of recent abortive launch of three satellites aboard a modified Topol missile] The whole world gasped. The delivery vehicle, which is referred to only in hushed tones and half-spoken allusions but was known to be up to 10 years ahead of its U.S. counterpart, the Minuteman, failed to reach its orbit.

It is assembled here, at the Votkinsk plant, where cameras were allowed literally for the first time yesterday.

This is the last Russian RSD-10 medium-range missile, or SS-20 according to international classification. It was destroyed in 1987. The ease with which this was done is possibly explained by the fact that a new Soviet-made solid-fuel delivery vehicle, the SS-25, better known as Topol, had successfully covered the 6,436 km from Plesetsk to Kamchatka back in 1983. [video shows plant exterior, RSD-10 missile, explosion]

[Polozhentsev addressing plant official] Why is it that quite recently Topols have failed to reach orbit?

[A. Rybakov, "Votkinskiy Zavod" State Production Association deputy general director for economic questions, identified by caption] Turn it off, turn it off, there is no need.... I mean I simply cannot comment on the Start launchers to which you are referring, and on the fact that they are made using the Topol as the material basis.

[Polozhentsev] The conversation with the plant management did not get off the ground initially. Later they nonetheless explained to us that the Start, unlike a normal Topol, had five rather than three stages. The flight trajectory had not been calculated correctly. And the final stage simply failed.

At the moment there is probably no point in looking for scapegoats. Essentially since the entire defense industry is destitute. Take the Votkinsk plant, for example, the country's only enterprise where strategic missiles are produced and assembled. In recent years alone 1,500 people have left the plant. Among engineering plants, the

Votkinsk plant ranks eighth in terms of wages and 10th in terms of revenue. And the defense order for the current year has not yet been submitted.

Meanwhile, the modernized solid-fuel, silo-based Topol-M is currently being built at the plant. Work is under way on a mobile modification. The point is that Russia has no time to spare. Seven strategic nuclear missiles currently in the arsenal are expected to come to the end of their life cycle by the end of the century, and be replaced by the Topol. [video shows recent abortive Start launch, exterior of Votkinsk plant, RSD-10 missile, explosion, glimpse of Votkinsk drawing board office, interview with Rybakov sitting under a picture of Lenin, Start prior to launch, graphics of stage separation, Votkinsk production facilities, missile launch]

Federal Assembly

Federation Council Deputy on Election Law

954F2103A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Apr 95 p 2

[Article by Yuriy Boldyrev, deputy of the Federation Council from St. Petersburg: "The Election Law and Russian Democracy. The Federation Council Will Determine the Mechanism of Formation of the Future Duma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma has passed a law on elections to the Duma. The president's draft was assumed as the basis, but with the following amendment: The Duma did not consent to change the ratio of deputies elected by party list and by single-seat constituency from "1:1 to "1:2" in favor of the "single-seaters."

It would seem that the Federation Council will have to resolve this dispute. If the law adopted by the Duma is supported, a subsequent override of the president's veto in both houses is likely. And even if this is not the case, the president will in this case have lost politically, all the same. For he himself established the present proportion of "party-listers" and "single-seaters" just 18 months ago. And if there is no law by the time of the elections, but not on account of red tape in parliament or disagreements between its houses but as a consequence of the impermanence of the viewpoint on the mechanism of formation of the Duma of the president himself, this will hardly help him justify the holding of elections by presidential edict.

If, however, the Federation Council proposes that the Duma alter the proportion, the matter is settled. For it would remain to the Duma to appeal merely to the president.... Subsequent and continued attempts to stick to its guns could produce a result incommensurable with the consequences, a "non-optimal" party quota, say. Thus, were the law not to be adopted on time because of this, the president could declare that the parliament had failed to cope with its functions and that its chambers

could not come to some arrangement even on the question of their own elections. And, therefore: "I, as president and guarantor of the Constitution, am forced..." We have, generally, already been this route, the difference being merely that on this occasion these actions could prove far more justified.... The Duma would in this case most likely be dissolved at the end of its term. And new elections of it would subsequently be announced according to rules established once again by edict. The president would in this case form the Federation Council also, evidently, by edict from the heads of the administrations of the regions or their deputies whom he himself had appointed and also from representatives of the regional Dumas and assemblies. Nor, moreover, are the most exotic options excluded here, up to and including that proposed by the speaker of the Federation Council, where the Kremlin (the president, that is) is somehow like one further region, endowing itself with the right to also send its two representatives to the Federation Council. And with such guarantees of the loyalty of the future Federation Council, considering its right to reject laws adopted by the Duma, the mechanism of the formation and the composition of the Duma, including the size of the party quota, could be matters of interest only to the candidates themselves....

What arguments do the supporters of preservation of the present "1:1" proportion propose?

1. The proportional system makes it possible to represent in parliament more dependably and fairly the various political positions in the correlation in which they obtain support in society.
2. The half elected by list represents the critical mass that is necessary for a politically structured, not atomized, parliament.
3. Behind each deputy elected by election association list at the last elections were an average of 200,000 voters, whereas many of the deputies elected by single-seat constituency obtained 30,000-40,000 votes.
4. Election legislation is violated more frequently in the election of deputies from single-seat constituencies, many examples of which were produced by the recent elections in a number of regions.

The well-known proposition that federal parties have an interest in the unity of the country and that their representation contributes to a strengthening of this unity is cited also.

The presidential side argues that it is right as follows.

1. Political parties in Russia are merely in the formation phase, and allocating them half of the seats in parliament is premature.
2. Parties do not have roots in society and represent predominantly formations of the capital.
3. Deputies from constituencies have direct links with the electorate and are more responsible when decisions affecting their interests are adopted.

So each side has its substantive arguments. But not all of them are incontestable. Moreover, far from all of them have a bearing on the question at issue.

Here are some examples. That a proportional system, as distinct from the majority system, permits the representation in parliament of political minorities is axiomatic, as is also the need to strengthen the unity and integrity of the country. These are telling arguments in defense of the presence of an element of proportional representation and for the development of the party system as a whole, but by no means in favor of a specific "1:1" ratio in the Duma.

The interest in the structuring of the Duma is understandable also. And, despite all its drawbacks, the factional principle of the organization of its work is an undoubted step forward compared with the previous, more bureaucratic, principle. But, on the other hand, pointing to so strict a dependence of the possibility of structuring on the presence of no fewer than half the deputies elected by party list—is this not an indication of doubt whether even in the totality of all the different parties there is sufficient influence for confidently securing the election by single-seat constituency of the number of "party-ites" necessary for the "critical mass of the structuring of the Duma"?

And the assertion that there are "for each deputy" elected by list four to six times more voters than for many deputies elected by constituency would seem speculative to me. First, no one has asked the citizens whether they want to vote for one party or, in addition, for one candidate by constituency. Second, these votes are, for all that, not for each deputy but frequently merely for the Moscow leaders. At best, for a party, but one which, as a rule, does not yet have sufficient levers of influence on its representatives in the Duma. And, third, yes, it is an abnormal situation where, as in the present composition of the Duma, there are deputies who mustered only 3-5 percent of the vote of the total electorate of the constituency. But the root of this problem lies elsewhere: in the lowered threshold of voter turnout, and also in the system of determination of the winner in one round in terms of a relative majority of votes. But if the Duma is so responsibly advocating the quality and representative nature of its future composition, why has there not been such unanimous support for a two-round system with the condition that the winner is merely the one who has mustered more than half or, at least, more than one-fourth of the votes?

As far as violations at the time of the elections are concerned, it would be logical, if there is an understanding of the impermissibility of a recurrence of certain precedents, to lay down in the law a set of measures to, specifically, limit the arbitrary action of the election commissions. On so important a matter as verification of the authenticity of collected signatures included. And remembering that we have still not obtained the complete results of the elections and the referendum of the

fall of 1993, to nominate new people for the Central Election Commission. Unfortunately, despite the fact that a number of provisions for ensuring the public nature of the vote-counting were made a part of the law, on the whole, the same high scrupulousness was not displayed by the factions in the Duma on these matters either.

It is the same with the arguments of the presidential side also.

Yes, parties in Russia are merely in the formation phase. But this is a different phase from that of the fall of 1993. Considerations of "prematurity" did not at that time prevent the president from making a royal gift—giving half the seats in parliament to parties that did not, in fact, exist, since, in view of their lack of special rights, party building had up to this moment been an exclusively amateur practice oriented toward an uncertain future. And now, when different parties have acquired some stable characteristics, a turn in the opposite direction?

The argument that the present political parties are parties of the capital and do not have roots in society cannot simply be discounted either. But whereas this was a given fact 18 months ago, at the time of the announcement of the "monarch's will," no one has in these 18 months prevented the creation of other parties, up to and including federal, but "anti-Moscow," parties also. But if no one has done so, perhaps everyone is content with the choice of "capital" parties?

The question of the greater responsibility of the "single-seaters" is ambivalent also. Yes, the needs of their electorate are closer to them, as a rule. But we have another chamber of parliament designed to protect the interests of the regions and their citizens. The idea of the Duma is nationwide representation and also the representation of various social strata and groups. The factional mechanism of work is more in keeping with this idea, although not obligatory, with the party-list method of the formation of the parliamentary composition. At the same time, on the other hand, it cannot be ruled out that people who had not been elected but appointed by the president would now fetch up in the Federation Council. Under these conditions, the Duma would be forced, perhaps, to assume the function of territorial civil representation also.... But it is hardly this argument that would be appropriate coming from a president who bestowed on us so splendid a constitution.

There is a manifestation of logic in the president's position if it is recalled that prior to the December 1993 elections he had, first, absolutely loyal party structures, which had no stops in their undoubted support for the authorities and which were capable, as it seemed at that time, of winning the support of the electorate. Second, there was also a whole chorus of parties and yesmen-leaders from the "constitutional conference" formed as a counterweight to the former parliament. The president has approached the new elections, however, albeit with

an electronic system of the tallying of their results and his own, nonstate, "public" television, having met with the hesitation even of those most infinitely prepared for "compromise" "for the sake of reforms"....

The Duma's doggedness in the struggle for the status quo is understandable also. After all, there is the notion that the parties that have managed to get into the Duma will be able to do so again also. Whence the perception that seats in the Duma are being taken away from them directly. In addition, the law makes it possible to run for office by list and by constituency simultaneously. A limitation of the seats by list would reduce the possibilities of getting elected in this fashion, although there would be practically no lessening of the competition in the elections by constituency. And, finally, the law was adopted by the Duma prior to the confirmation at congresses of the new party lists. Accordingly, there are more hopes than there are seats. A vote for a reduction in the party quota, on the other hand, could be seen by one's colleagues as thoughtlessness at best.

Perhaps both the president and the deputies of the Duma, of course, will be guided first and foremost by the idea of the common good. But they will hardly be inclined to disregard the adduced considerations.

From what might the deputies of the Federation Council proceed?

Regardless of the arguments of the sides, many of the deputies know for a fact that in their multimillion-strong regions there simply are, in fact, no parties or more or less well-known representatives of them. And there then arises not theoretically but purely practically the question: Why give half the seats in one chamber of parliament to utterly unremarkable people, fellow countrymen included, who have no chance of winning the support of the electorate personally, but who are distinguished by the fact that they opportunely declared support for this well-known Moscow politician or the other?

But, the opponents say, since the people support some leader, let him send to parliament his nameless assistants.

The deputies of the Federation Council will proceed, I believe, not from theoretical arguments but from their actual experience, experience of interaction with the present Duma included. It sometimes, unfortunately, leaves much to be desired. A recent example is the situation surrounding the law on the Central Bank of Russia. The Duma adopted the law. The Federation Council rejected it as creating, instead of a key state authority, some, if you will excuse the expression, prison research shop performing most important state functions, but not adequately subject to anyone's jurisdiction. I shall henceforward mention not the line of reasoning but merely the sequence of events. The Federation Council proposes the creation of a conciliation commission. The Duma, instead, overrides the

Federation Council's disagreement almost unanimously—by two-thirds vote of the official register. The Federation Council just as unanimously appeals to the president, proposing that the law not be signed. The president returns the law and also proposes the creation of a conciliation commission. But the Duma organizes merely some working group, which takes account merely of the comments of the president.... And it starts all over again from scratch?

Let us consider: On a specific, truly important issue, the positions of the two houses of one parliament in one and the same country are diametrically opposite. And if here one side categorically refuses to take part in conciliation procedures, how should the other react? And is it not natural to ask it: If we, elected in vast regions personally, and they, elected somewhat differently, understand the situation and the public good so differently, could there be some slight adjustment in the mechanism of election of the deputies of the Duma?

My purpose has not been to prove the justice of one side, but I have attempted to show the interweave of the diverse arguments and motives. I myself, evidently, shall have to proceed from the simplest argument: The stability of the electoral system, the stability of the constituencies and the "single-seaters" electorate, is no less a value than the ideal proportion between them and the "party-ites." And in order to change anything, there is a need for telling and unequivocal arguments, which neither side has, it would seem.

And several inferences in conclusion.

1. Neither support for the arguments of the Duma nor the result of pressure on the part of the president should necessarily be sought in the future decision of the Federation Council—the majority in the Federation Council will be guided, evidently, by entirely different considerations.
2. In the event that the Federation Council does not agree with the Duma, the consequences for the Duma should not be dramatized. I refer, of course, not to the future of specific parties and their leaders, but to the prospects of democracy. After all, proportional representation in this case would not be abolished, it is merely that its relative significance would be reduced. Not to mention the fact that in the United States and certain other democratic countries, all members of parliament are elected in specific constituencies, but this does not prevent them from working concertedly in the course of election campaigns and, subsequently, in factions also.
3. The issue should not be unduly politicized or the possible winnings of the president exaggerated. After all, during attempts at an opportunist change in the rules of the game, the result far from always corresponds to expectations.
4. And, finally, concerning the main point. It may be argued which is the better model: more liberal or more

social; presidential or parliamentary. But even more important is its inner harmony and lack of contradictions in all components. I shall cite an example with reference to our question. Thus, parties in the United States coordinating efforts and nominating from their ranks presidential candidates and parties, in the FRG, for example, running lists, creating coalitions, and forming governments are very different parties, and even a different type of leadership is inherent in them—in accordance with their different functions in these political systems. And we, in fact, are faced with a considerably more complex problem: not simply the internal structuring of parliament, but the creation of a parliament that is primarily responsible and adequate both in terms of mechanism of formation and in terms of the procedures of the operation of the entire system of the state arrangement. And for this it is necessary to choose. Either amorphous parties oriented toward assurance of the cooperation of free politicians, without strict internal mechanisms of responsibility. But then, no party lists either. Or elections by party list, but among parties with strict internal discipline and financing mechanisms that are public and strictly under the control of society. Among parties coming to parliament to create a stable majority responsible for the policy it pursues, forming a government, and bearing the fullness of responsibility for its activity.

Constitutionality of Federation Council Bill Questioned

MM2104075795 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Document Published for First Time"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma is currently proposing a debate on the draft law "On the Formation of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council." According to the information available to the editorial office, this draft law runs counter to constitutional norms determining the procedure for shaping the upper house of parliament. Effectively an attempt is being made to legalize the Soviet-party principle of the formation of a legislative organ—a principle that has been rejected by life. We can only hope that among the deputies there will be few naive and gullible people whom political demagogues can turn into supporters of this dubious draft law. In tomorrow's ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI readers will be able to familiarize themselves with the stenographic record of the June session of the 1993 Constitutional Conference, which discussed the corresponding constitutional norm. It is clear from the stenographic record that the most important Russian legal scholars and well-known politicians, thoroughly analyzing this constitutional norm, reached conclusions that run sharply counter to V. Isakov's draft law.

Duma To Investigate Zhirinovskiy's Part in Chechen Trip

LD1904091895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0859 GMT 19 Apr 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 19 (ITAR-TASS)—The State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) instructed on Wednesday the commission investigating reasons for the Chechen crisis to find out and inform legislators about circumstances of participation by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia in the celebration of the second anniversary of the Chechen Republic's "independence" in Grozny in Autumn 1993.

Thus, deputies supported a proposal made by Viktor Ilyukhin, chairman of the Duma Security Committee.

The parliamentary commission investigating reasons and circumstances of the Chechen crisis was set up by a Duma decision last January. The commission is led by prominent film director Stanislav Govorukhin, head of the Russian Democratic Party parliamentary group.

Duma Passes Range of Economic, Other Laws

MK2004122095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Boris Boyko: "Deputies Merged Radioactive Waste With Continental Shelf"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The economic part of yesterday's State Duma plenary sitting passed off without discussions. This made it possible for the parliamentarians to do more than the agenda called for, with a number of rather important documents passing first and second readings as a result. They ranged from laws "On Radiation Safety of the Population," "On the Use of Nuclear Energy," to a draft law "On the Continental Shelf."

The State Duma also passed second reading of a rather important draft law "On Riders and Additions to Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation in Connection With the Passing of the Russian Federation Laws 'On Standardization,' 'On Ensuring Uniformity of Measurements,' 'On Certification of Products and Services.'" The law, in particular, amends Article 170 of the RSFSR Administrative Offenses Code which carries fines ranging from five to one hundred times the minimum wage for violation of mandatory requirements of state standards, the rules of mandatory certification, as well as the uniformity of measurement requirements.

The draft law passed in its second reading, "On State Policy in the Field of Handling Radioactive Waste," calls for, among other measures of state regulation, issuing licenses for handling radioactive waste. Also classed as activities requiring licenses are the designing of facilities of specialized organizations dealing with

radioactive waste handling, the construction and running of facilities and the modification of technology involved in handling waste, the collection, transportation, processing, storing, and burying waste, training and advanced training of personnel for operational and specialized organizations handling waste, and departmental control on safe conduct of works.

The draft law "On the Continental Shelf," which passed second reading, will make it possible, its drafters think, to regulate all aspects of activity of Russian and foreign individuals and legal entities, international organizations, and foreign states within the limits of Russia's continental shelf. The law is based on two fundamental principles. First, the shelf's natural resources are in the exclusive jurisdiction of Russia; second, to dispose of them is the responsibility of the government. Importantly, the government shall take into consideration the interests of federation components in exploiting the continental shelf depending upon their contribution to surveying and developing these resources and the use of infrastructure. The section that regulates economic relations in using the shelf is rather important. It lists all types of payments for using the shelf. These are, for example, payment for the right to use and reproduce living resources, payment for the right to bury waste and other materials, excise duties, duties for the processing of applications and the issue of licenses, for information support to users of the resources, and for participation in competitive tenders and auctions for the right to use parts of the shelf.

Duma Rejects Amnesty Proposal for Tax Evaders

LD2004154895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Interfax)—The Russian Duma Security Committee unanimously turned down on Thursday a proposal on amnesty for those who carried their capital abroad and evaded paying taxes. This statement was made for Interfax on Thursday by the committee's chairman Viktor Ilyukhin (Russian Communist Party faction).

The authors of the draft resolution on amnesty—Sergey Kalashnikov (LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] faction), Aleksey Leushkin and Yevgeniy Bushmin (both from the Stability group) propose that those, who carried capital abroad, placed financial assets abroad and evaded taxes in this way, not be held legally accountable.

The draft resolution's authors believe the absence of a criminal record, the declaration of the amount of their capital abroad and its investment into the Russian economy before December 31, 1995 should be the main conditions for applying amnesty to these persons.

The Russian government reacted negatively to this proposal. The official conclusion signed by Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhrai, says that as a result of such an

amnesty "it is doubtful that it would be possible to attract to the Russian economy the financial means held abroad."

It also says that in many cases the capital is of a criminal origin (embezzlement, narcobusiness and smuggling) and the amnesty of those who have committed such grave crimes "cannot meet the state's national interests".

For his part, Ilyukhin prepared a draft resolution on measures to protect the state's national interests, in which he proposes that the Russian Prosecutor's Office hold a preliminary investigation for uncovering those who transfer capital abroad, and take urgent measures to return this capital and compensate for the losses.

LDPR Member Expelled From Duma for Assaulting Communist

LD2104090595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0830 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian State Duma decided Friday to expell from the assembly hall a member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy who had hit a communist representative.

Vitaliy Zhuravlev, 31, hit Vladimir Bokov, 68 and the Duma also decided to deny him the floor until the end of May. The reasons of the clash were not immediately clear.

Zhirinovskiy, who himself was several times involved in brawls with other lawmakers, tried to defend his party member, but Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin advised him "not to make militants out of his deputies". "It's too early yet", Rybkin said.

However, Zhuravlev remained in the Duma assembly hall. Rybkin allowed him to stay, but only as "a private individual".

Duma Passes Laws on Presidential, Parliamentary Elections

LD2104104095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1003 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian State Duma again passed the laws on presidential and parliamentary elections which had been voted down by the upper house, the Federation Council.

The Duma agreed to approve the amendment of the Federation Council and decrease from 1.5 to one million the number of signatures necessary to be collected by a presidential candidate for registration.

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The Duma also agreed that in case the upper house decides to impeach the president, but fails to announce new elections, the polls are to be held not later than in three months since the impeachment.

The Duma also passed the law on its own elections, but rejected all major amendments proposed by the upper house.

Duma Passes Law To Retain Current Electoral System

LD2104104895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1038 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian State Duma passed the law on its own elections Friday [21 April] and retained the provision that 225 or a half of the deputies are elected by party lists, while the other half—by the first-past-the-post system.

The law was earlier rejected by the upper house—the Federation Council, which insisted that the proportion should be changed and that 300 or two thirds of 450 Duma members be elected by the first-past-the post system, while 150 would be elected by party lists.

The Federation Council which united regional representatives objected to the Duma version saying it allows mostly Moscow-based candidates to win parliament seats through party lists.

The Duma, however, kept the 50:50 version.

At the same time, the lower house passed an amendment which says that in case the president refuses to announce Duma elections in the Constitutionally-envisioned period, the polls are held on the first Sunday of the month following the month in which the Duma mandate expires. If the president dissolves the Duma, but fails to announce new elections, the polls are held on the first Sunday after three months pass since the dissolution.

Now the law passed by the Duma is again to be submitted to the Federation Council.

Russian Landowners' Union Joins Parliamentary Elections

LD1204192995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 12 (Interfax)—Russia's rural residents and dacha owners will face a difficult choice at the future parliamentary elections as another participant, the Russian Landowners' Union, has joined the race, in addition to the Communist Party of Russia and the agrarians.

The union was founded in December 1994. Its leader, president of the Farmers and Agricultural Cooperatives'

Association, Vladimir Bashmachnikov, told a news conference in Moscow that it "excludes neither independent participation in the elections, nor in blocs with democratic parties, for example Russia's Choice."

In addition to the Farmers and Agricultural Cooperatives' Association, the union was founded by the Peasants' Party of Russia, Rural Youth Union, Gardeners and Apiarists' Society and other public movements. The union will support "anyone who does not hamper the development of small and medium-sized business in the country," Bashmachnikov said. A party's attitude to "the Constitution-guaranteed right to private ownership of land" will determine its image for the union, he added.

A meeting of the union's coordinating council adopted a program statement Wednesday saying it "will take part in the elections to Russia's Federal Assembly to win, because it reflects the interests of 60 million families, somehow involved in land relations." "No other political party or election bloc has such a social base," according to the statement.

Regional Affairs

Reportage, Commentary on Situation in Chechnya

Russians Control 80 Percent of Region

LD2004163195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1605 GMT 20 Apr 95

[By Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 20 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian troops in Chechnya advanced by Thursday morning to the border with Dagestan in the east of the rebel republic and control the settlement of Bamut and the adjacent areas in the west of Chechnya, Interior Ministry spokesman Vladimir Vorozhkov told TASS today.

He added that there were "no serious combat activities" in Chechnya over the past 24 hours. "Federal troops only fired back", according to the spokesman who said at the same time that "interior forces continue disarming illegal armed units" - the official wording for the Chechen military operation.

The government press centre said Thursday that residents of the settlements of Vedeno and Shatoi in the south-east of Chechnya "are abandoning their homes in fear for their lives during combat operations". "The situation in the mountain regions of the republic remains tense", it said. Vorozhkov added that federal troops now control 80 percent of the Chechen territory where 90 percent of the population live.

Kulikov on Chechen Snipers, Dudayev's Whereabouts

LD2004204695 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Apr 95

["Exclusive" interview with Anatoliy Kulikov, commander of the joint group of federal troops in the

Chechen Republic, by Dmitriy Kochetkov, on 20 April, place not given, in the "Vremya" newscast—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kulikov] There have been attempts on the part of Dudayev's closest entourage to continue this war in the form of terrorist activities, in the form of sabotage. Unfortunately, they are infiltrating, especially in Grozny. We have already had a number of instances where snipers have killed not only servicemen but also people who have been actively starting to rebuild the republic. Appropriate measures are being taken.

[Kochetkov] And do you have any information about Dudayev's whereabouts, or whether he is alive or not, as there have been a number of reports of his being killed or wounded?

[Kulikov] There has been no sign of Dudayev anywhere for about four weeks, or even more than four weeks, neither on the television or on the radio, and this indeed gives rise to serious doubt as to whether he is around, whether he is still alive. [video shows interview]

Operations Around Bamut 'Less Intensive'

LD2004223495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1759 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Arshty (Chechnya), April 20 (Interfax)—Over the last two days, military operations around the village of Bamut in western Chechnya have become considerably less intensive, an Interfax correspondent reported from the area.

According to the correspondent, the operations are being hampered by a downpour, going on for its second day now.

Chechen sources say that the federal troops cannot use its aviation for the same reason.

The last major clash near Bamut took place Tuesday evening. The command of the Western group of Chechen formations told Interfax that the federal forces had lost several dozen troops there. However, the commander of the federal forces in Chechnya, Anatoliy Kulikov, stated that they lost 14 servicemen, while Chechen formations over 400 troops.

Moscow Strengthens Forces Around Bamut

LD2104110195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1035 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ARSHTY, April 21 (Interfax)—The Russian side continues building up "forces and resources" near the mountainous village of Bamut in western Chechnya, the stronghold of Dudayev supporters, Chechen military sources told Interfax Friday [21 April].

They say that part of Russian units is being moved from southern direction (Serzhen-Yurt-Agishty, 40 km south-east of Grozny) to Bamut. Near the village, on the

Russian-Chechen confrontation line, there have been no position changes for the third day running. There are only sporadic fire exchanges.

The Chechens are attempting to block all possible ways of bypassing their positions by federal troops. Road blocks and listening points are being made at ridges between Bamut and Nesterovskaya (Ingushetia), and between Bamut and Achkhoy-Martan, which could be used by the Russian side to encircle the Dudayev western grouping.

St. Petersburg Willing To Host Chechnya Talks

LD2004190795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1847 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ST. PETERSBURG, April 20 (Interfax)—St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak confirmed that the city authorities are prepared to host talks on resolution of the Chechen conflict.

He said at a news conference on April 20 that there were people who opposed Dzhokhar Dudayev in Chechnya and that all sides should take part in the talks and first of all they have to agree among themselves.

Sobchak said that the Russian president took a positive view of the idea of talks. The St. Petersburg authorities sent a peace plan to the Federation Council (upper house of Russian parliament) a month ago suggesting that the city be used as a venue of talks.

Sobchak said that Dudayev knew of the plan. Dudayev told St. Petersburg-based human rights activist Antuan Arakelyan on March 28 that he is prepared to take part in the talks provided that they are properly prepared and guarantees are given.

Leaders on Regional Reconstruction

MM2104074995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Apr 95 First Edition p 1

[Report by Tatyana Shutova: "Some Seek Work, Others a Portfolio. How the Economy Is Being Restored in Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Grozny-Moscow—The VAYNAKH-PRESS Agency reports that the months-long standoff between the civilian residents of Achkhoy-Martan, one of Chechnya's largest rayon centers, and Dzhokhar Dudayev's armed supporters ended in the gunmen having to hurriedly abandon the positions they held. The local administration together with the elders of neighboring villages recently met in the center of the settlement with representatives of the government of national rebirth, the National Accord Committee (NAC), and the military command. The participants in the meeting discussed how to restore the rayon's economy.

The problems of restoring Chechnya's economy demand a greater degree of organization and coordination. Oleg

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Soskovets, first vice premier of the Russian Federation Government, spoke of this at a session of the state commission in Grozny. Our correspondent, who has been to liberated rayons of the republic, talked with people directly engaged on this work.

Nikolay Semenov, leader of the Territorial Administration of Federal Organs of Power in Chechnya:

"This year it is planned to spend 5.3 trillion rubles [R] on reconstruction work, of which R4.3 trillion will be taken from the treasury, while the rest will be nonbudgetary funds. A targeted program has been created, and its priority task is to pay pensions, wages, and compensation. But it is not yet possible to properly mobilize the sources of funding and to galvanize the actions of the federal departments. Work is also being held up by the tense internal situation in the republic, the continuing armed actions, and the acts of terrorism. In order to normalize life in Chechnya, an all-Chechnya accord is also needed. Some progress has been made in this. True, it is, in my opinion, too soon to speak of elections, but it is necessary to think of them."

Salambek Khadzhiyev, chairman of the government of national rebirth of the Chechen Republic:

"Analogues of the federal departments are being created in our government, and they must, in time, pick up the reins of government of Chechnya's economy. We work both directly with Moscow and through the Territorial Administration. Cadres are resolving many issues. Look at the crowd of people outside our government house in Grozny. Do you think they have come to ask for work? No, for portfolios and posts. I am accused of taking on former 'Dudayevites.' I do take them on. Only they are not 'Dudayevites' but people who were blinded by false slogans and demagoguery. The chief point now is that a person should be able and willing to work. In my view, the sooner elections are held, the better. The sooner the situation is stabilized and accord comes about, the more guarantees there will be that the funds invested and the effort expended will not be swallowed up by a 'black hole.'"

Umar Avturkhanov, chairman of the NAC:

"Various regions, political movements, and groups of the population resident in the republic are represented on the NAC, which was created on the basis of the Interim Council of the Chechen Republic. The NAC has begun work on preparing a draft constitution of the Chechen Republic and holding elections. Any other structure analogous with the NAC, even though it is created with the very best intentions, would only be capable of destabilizing the situation in the republic. At the end of April we plan to hold a conference of national accord in Grozny. Elections could take place in the very near future."

Beslan Gantemirov, chairman of Grozny City Assembly:

"Grozny City Assembly is a legitimate organ. It was elected not in Checheno-Ingushetia but already in Chechnya, was broken up by Dudayev in 1993, and has now been reinstated.

"It is necessary, above all, to conduct a poll of the population with regard to the nature of relations with Russia. There will not be civil war in Chechnya, but an opposition struggle in civilized forms is perfectly possible."

These are the opinions on the situation in Chechnya of those who are in charge of rebuilding and who are in power in the republic. I would like to hope that peace and accord will reign there—which means that the funds invested will not go to waste. The majority of the inhabitants of multinational Chechnya long to return to their homes and crave the normalization of life.

The VAYNAKH-PRESS Agency reports:

In the ranks of the militiamen who are retreating to distant mountain villages there is growing discontent with D. Dudayev as his supporters' military failures mount. In their opinion, Dudayev is chiefly to blame for pushing the Chechens into war against the Russian Army because of his own ambitions.

Reputed Cease-Fire Seen as Essentially Meaningless

MK2104095095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 21 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Sergey Parkhomenko: "A Conflict of Interests"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports leaked to ITAR-TASS yesterday, the command of federal Armed Forces and Ministry of Internal Affairs troop units participating in military operations on Chechnya territory was ordered by Moscow to stop any combat action as of 20 April. There are no references to any concrete sources in the TASS report. The Kremlin press service denies the report, although not in a very confident tone. On the other hand, the Ministry of Internal Affairs Public Relations Center states firmly: Minister Yerin, in any event, has not issued any such orders.

Even so, on the whole the report sounds absolutely plausible, because it fully fits into the logic of pre-holiday festivities organized by the Russian leadership in connection with the approaching 9 May.

After all, we have been asked not to stage too pompous a demonstration of modern military equipment: Otherwise this will not be a pleasant sight to the leaders of the allied powers. We were asked to dress the veterans in clean suits made of German gabardine, or the allied veterans will be embarrassed to march along with them. We were asked to clear the capital of undesirable elements, or it will be frightening to walk the streets.

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And we were also asked to "close the Chechen episode." Well, if not close it, then at least cover it up with a newspaper. Or, say, an ITAR-TASS tape. Why not accede to this little whim of the dear guests?

SEGODNYA's military experts and also reporters who have just returned from the military theater have reacted rather sluggishly to this sensational news. Indeed: Such a decision (assuming it was really made) does not essentially change anything. The war has not been declared over because it had never been declared in the first place. The state of emergency in the conflict zone has not been lifted or relaxed because it had never been introduced.

Finally, the intensity of army and police operations as a result of this order "being communicated to unit commanders" (this seems to be the standard jargon) will also hardly lessen appreciably. This is the perennial problem of any war: Field commanders of all warring sides are forced to follow the logic of combat actions itself rather than to be guided by orders from the top command. The four-month history of the Chechen war gives no reason to suppose that Moscow headquarters has any additional, especially reliable methods of controlling the subordinate warring contingent.

Quite the contrary, doubts will only deepen because the command itself—namely the leadership of the two "departments concerned"—the Defense Ministry and the Ministry of Internal Affairs—has during this time given plenty of cause to suspect the existence of some serious discrepancy between its own plans, intentions, and interests in the Chechen situation, and the supreme commander's position. One can only hope that this "conflict of interests" is confined only to disagreements in views on the strategy and tactics of combat actions proper. We should try to begin believing that political interests are not involved.

In brief, having made a decision immediately to suspend active operations on all of Chechnya's territory, the country's political leadership will only take on additional and clearly unfulfillable obligations. And with them, additional—again purely political—responsibility. Remember how it was when the president announced that Chechnya had not been bombed for several days while newsmen used quotations from these statements exclusively as legends under the photos of bombed-out residential areas of Grozny. How shameful it was.... Now it will also be.

True, the conflict between this feeling of shame and the promises to "make things beautiful" for the holiday is the inevitable conflict between present-day Kremlin interests.

Kalmykia's President Dismisses Government

LD1904140195 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that the fate of the Kalmyk government has been sealed. By his decree,

Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, the republic's president, dismissed the Kalmyk government today. This decision was based, I quote, on the inability to carry out properly the tasks set to the government.

Krasnodar Assembly on Budget, Yugoslavia

954F2097A Krasnodar KUBANKSIYE NOVOSTI in Russian 25 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by I. Ragozina and A. Sizov under the heading "From the Legislative Assembly Fourth Session": "The Kray Has a Budget"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The session of the ZSK [Krasnodar Kray Legislative Assembly] discussed the budget of Krasnodar Kray (and the kray budget proper) for 1995. What constitutes it? What is the nature of its expenditure and revenue sides? How will the social programs be funded? These and other questions of the deputies were answered by I.V. Demenko, general director of the Department for Finances, Budget, and Control of the administration of the kray.

The sum total of budget revenue of the kray is forecast in an amount of 3.8 trillion rubles [R]. The indicators of the draft budget are tied to the forecast of the socioeconomic development of Kuban in 1995.

The subsidy for the animal husbandry product will amount to R127.567 billion. An amount of R119.011 billion is planned for the financing of capital investments. Appropriations from the budget for compensating for the difference between the wholesale and retail price of fuel sold to the public totaling R66.955 billion are envisaged. It is planned to allocate R5 billion to pay off the debt in terms of deferred centralized credit to the agricultural producers; and for the laying in and storage of fruit and vegetable products, R10 billion.

Unfortunately, the figures contained in the draft do not satisfy the requirements of the majority of branches of the national economy and social spheres in Kuban. This year, for example, the Legislative Assembly's Health Care Committee presented the administration with its calculations for the allocation of funds for medicine—R2,228,445,000,000. But the possibilities of the budget made it possible to put down only R692.53 billion. When forming the budget, the drafters proceeded from actual realities: the growth of inflationary processes, the decline in the value of the ruble, and the slump in production. And, in addition, 31 rayons of the kray remained subsidized, which could not have failed to have been reflected in the compilation of the expenditure side of the budget.

The draft that was presented evoked no particular arguments among the deputies, and inasmuch as no alternative budget act was presented, the members of parliament embarked on discussion of this one.

The legislators voiced their criticisms and proposals: that the present budget be given a social focus, that the

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funding of the commodity producer be reconsidered, and that the large Kuban cities be accorded greater independence in the use of revenue that they obtain.

Deputies V.V. Krokmal, V.M. Moroz, and A.D. Bashinskiy called on their colleagues to vote for this document.

V.N. Dyakonov, chairman of the Krasnodar Kray Legislative Assembly Budget Committee, observed, concerning assistance to the countryside, that funds should be invested primarily in the farms from which efficient performance is expected. Deputy V.A. Beketov proposed the creation of an economic stabilization fund.

Ye.M. Kharitonov, head of the administration of the kray, who spoke next, expressed dissatisfaction at the slow consideration of questions of law-making and, specifically, the adoption of the kray budget.

The session approved the draft kray budget in its first reading. The Budget Committee was instructed to collate the amendments expressed by the deputies and, together with the corresponding department of the administration of the kray, to prepare the draft for final adoption by the Assembly.

The deputies then voted for the restoration of economic and cultural ties to the autonomous province of Vojvodina of the Republic of Serbia of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This matter had been raised by N.I. Kondratenko, S.A. Glotov, N.A. Zatepina, N.A. Verveyko, and A.A. Dologoplov, deputies of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Ye.M. Kharitonov, head of the administration of the kray, and a group of deputies of the Legislative Assembly.

The session of the Krasnodar Kray Legislative Assembly resolved to present to the Government of the Russian Federation the proposal for the conclusion of a 10-year agreement at the state level between Russia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the development of regional cooperation between Krasnodar Kray and the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. In such fields as science, culture, and sport, for that matter, we could be cooperating even now, without waiting for the lifting of the international sanctions from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the conclusion of intergovernmental agreements. A coordinating commission composed of N.I. Kondratenko and S.A. Glotov, deputies of the Federation Council; A.A. Bagmut, chairman of the Krasnodar Kray Legislative Assembly; V.F. Gladskiy, deputy head of the administration of the kray; deputies V.N. Kharinov, G.S. Doroshenko, and V.A. Shturba; and V.P. Gromov, ataman of the VKV [precise expansion unknown], was formed for this.

It was decided to send a bill on the procedure of the drafting, voting, and supervision of execution of the kray budget that had been put on the agenda for discussion to the Krasnodar Kray Legislative Assembly Budget Committee for revision.

The deputies adopted by an overwhelming majority the law "On a Freeze on the Privatization of Education Facilities in Krasnodar Kray."

Heated debate flared up during consideration of a most important law—on the special procedure of land use in Kuban. The bill had been presented by the administration of the kray, and amendments to it and addenda were presented by Ye.A. Shulik, chairman of the Krasnodar Kray Legislative Assembly Committee for Agricultural Policy and Land Use. An item-by-item discussion then began.

Following extended study of the kray budget in committee, the deputies reassembled to finally adopt this document. But the businesslike mood was "shot down" by the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] faction. Disagreeing with certain amendments, some of the faction deputies staged a walkout and returned several minutes later with the demand that a 30-minute break be called. But inasmuch as there no longer were any LDPR deputies, hardly, the meeting of the session continued its business.

Ultimately, the kray budget was adopted. Specifically, the deputies increased the subsidies for the development of animal husbandry by R20 billion, and for the supply of gas to the northern parts of the kray by R10 billion. Appropriations for the realization of youth and other programs were increased. **SOME R3.5 BILLION ARE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE PAST 77 YEARS BEING ALLOCATED IN THE KRAY BUDGET FOR THE REVIVAL OF THE COSSACKS.**

But the deputies did not approve the subsidy amount of R770 million intended for the newspaper VOLNAYA KUBAN, it being decided to channel the money into support for rayon newspapers.

The session continued on Friday.

The morning meeting on this day began with Deputy N.A. Vysotskiy reading out a statement on withdrawal from the LDPR faction. A similar statement had been delivered the day before by Deputy G.V. Shtefan. Four true "falcons" remain in the Kuban parliament following this: "This does not, alas, entitle them to register as a faction of deputies (a minimum of five persons is needed) and, consequently, weakens the positions of the liberal democrats considerably."

Krasnodar Deputy Decries Local LDPR Paper
954F2097B Krasnodar KUBANSKIYE NOVOSTI in
Russian 25 Mar 95 p 1

[Interview with G.V. Shtefan, deputy chairman of the Krasnodar City Duma, by A. Lyman; place and date not given: "Negative Force"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the fourth session of the kray Legislative Assembly, Deputy G.V. Shtefan, deputy

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chairman of the Krasnodar City Duma, delivered a statement. Genrikh Viktorovich said that he was withdrawing from the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] faction and that at the time of the official registration of groups and factions of deputies, his name should not be on the list of liberal democrats.

G.V. Shtefan is known in the corps of deputies of the city and the kray as an experienced and level-headed individual. There have to be serious reasons for such a step. What are they?

[Lyamar] Genrikh Viktorovich, is your departure from the Zhirinovskiyites connected with a change in political views?

[Shtefan] Not at all. My views are common sense, legality, and probity. These come not entirely from the political sphere, it would seem, but simply from the sphere of human relationships. It was in this sphere that the motives for my action arose. I cannot stand beneath the same banner as people who are playing a dishonorable game.

[Lyamar] You mean "Zhirinovskiy's falcons"?

[Shtefan] No, they are decent boys, in the main. Maximalists on account of their youthfulness, perhaps, but this will pass.

[Lyamar] We are talking about personalities, then?

[Shtefan] Precisely. I cannot be on the same team as Igor Pavlovich Kolomiitsev, coordinator of the kray organization of the LDPR. He is a well-known individual. He is a strong personality, but his entire strength has some negative vector.

Igor Pavlovich is editor of the regional Russian newspaper KUBANSKIY KURYER and a deputy of the city Duma. He calls himself a patriot and likes to show up everyone as being involved in all kinds of sins. But the Duma has received an official letter from the parliament of the Republic of Adygea. The Russian patriot, apparently, resorted when he was barred entry to a meeting of a session of parliament to threats of the following type: "...We are still at the talking stage as yet...", "Watch out that we are not looking at one another through a gun-sight...", and so forth. Who needs this? The Russian people? The peoples of Adygea? This is incitement of enmity and hatred on national soil.

Or this, from I.P. Kolomiitsev's speech in the city Duma. He says that city hall is rushing privatization, "...which is greatly to some people's benefit. The conclusion that we reach is this: Either steal from the city together with the administration or put a stop to this practice...." Twenty-two deputies hear city hall being accused of theft. Without proof! How should they act?

They had hardly gotten their bearings in the delicate situation before Igor Pavlovich was staggering them with a new turn of events. He is now saying that a license for any type of activity may be obtained only via a bribe. "A

bribe was sought from KUBANSKIY KURYER also, and I paid it; this made me angry for a long time, of course, but ultimately I had to direct my staff to pay this bribe."

Carried away by his exposures, Igor Pavlovich has failed to spot how he has driven himself into a trap. If he organized the payment of a bribe, and involved his subordinates in an unlawful action besides, this is a crime. If there was no bribe, he has, consequently, slandered the corresponding authorities, and there is an article in the Criminal Code governing this also. The Duma is puzzled: Whichever way you look at it, Deputy Kolomiitsev should be taken from the podium straight to the investigator's office....

[Lyamar] Nonetheless, the "puzzled" Duma decides to make KUBANSKIY KURYER, headed by I.P. Kolomiitsev, its official newspaper?...

[Shtefan] I am saying, though, that Igor Pavlovich is not a simple personality. He calculated precisely when to raise at the session the matter of the "Duma" newspaper KUBANSKIY KURYER. The deputies who are the best informed on this issue were absent. And he talked the rest to death. And they voted... to involve the Duma in a suspicious commercial sphere.

[Lyamar] You mean?

[Shtefan] The newspaper is published by a restricted stock company which was founded by Messrs. I. Kolomiitsev and A. Rozhin—president of the Insar firm. The firm contributed 105 million rubles to the business, what is more, and the newspaper, the building at 339 Kalinin (which it is occupying illegally and of which it is not entitled to dispose). Insar is currently, as we all know, in a state of shock, it cannot settle accounts with its investors....

[Lyamar] Forgive my interrupting, Genrikh Viktorovich. Our newspaper also is housed at 339 Kalinin. And the person about whom you are now speaking was able to "squeeze" RASSVET, the newspaper of the handicapped, and the children's newspaper SOLNYSHKO out of this private building and to wrest away five rooms from us and accommodate on the whole of the vacated area the Insar office. We now have difficulty getting to work: Crowds of investors are besieging the entrance and demanding of the firm an answer: Where is our money?

[Shtefan] What do you mean where? You know how much it costs to publish a newspaper.

[Lyamar] Well, living modestly, about 10 billion a year.

[Shtefan] And the investors do not yet know that when reading KUBANSKIYE KURYER they are holding their own rubles converted into lines of print. Just as they do not know when watching the television program Studiya-M that it is their hard-earned money that the film clips and commercials are chasing. For Studiya-M

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also was founded by Insar and a group of "individuals." You probably know how much the upkeep of television costs also.

This is what the Duma has been pulled into!

[Lymar] It is the fourth week now incidentally, Genrikh Viktorovich, that the newspaper KUBANSKIY KURYER has not appeared....

[Shtefan] Naturally, Insar has no money. I do not know whether KURYER will continue to exist, but as the "Duma" organ—never! The mayor of the city has already vetoed the deputies' decision on the co-founding of the newspaper, and the deputies will not override it. The Duma has received documents from the city Registration Office. The deputies learned much that was surprising and odd from them about the status and activity of the two restricted stock companies KUBANSKIY KURYER and Studiya-M....

[Lymar] Knowing Igor Pavlovich Kolomiitsev's strong character, it may be assumed that he will refuse to put up with the present state of affairs and his own position. He will fight.

[Shtefan] He has not put up with it, he is fighting. And how! Shunning no weapons. He led an action committee of Insar investors to the city administration, for example, with a demand for money from the state. For settling accounts with people deceived by the firm, you think? This in itself would be shameless. But they were demanding credit for Insar! It is hard to take it in: Can people be so fooled that they request not the punishment of those who robbed them, but their encouragement!...

Igor Pavlovich evidently considers N. Kryazhevskiy, head of the city administration, his chief adversary. And the latter had only just obtained the implementation of numerous of decrees on an end to the chaotic trading around the Hay Market when Duma Deputy Kolomiitsev organized a demonstration picket outside city hall. "Ordinary traders" arrived in imported automobiles and in leather coats, and Igor Kolomiitsev addressed them, fervently holding the authorities up to shame....

And I would, generally, as a lawyer, like to say that the city procurator should now ascertain the official who forced I.P. Kolomiitsev, chief editor of the newspaper KUBANSKIY KURYER, to pay a bribe and also the administration employees who are stealing. And the Russian patriot I.P. Kolomiitsev, deputy of the city Duma, is duty-bound to assist here. Could I otherwise be in the same camp as he?

Work of Tyumen Oblast, Okrug Duma Detailed
954F2101A Tyumen TYUMENSKAYA PRAVDA in
Russian 25 Mar 95 p 1

[Article by Sergey Shilnikov, City of Khanty-Mansiysk:
"The Main Character Was Silence...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] The main character at the meeting of the council of the three Dumas, which was held on 23 March in Khanty-Mansiysk, was silence.... Chairman S. Sobyenin tried in vain to draw those present into a conversation, especially the Tyumen delegation. You will find out a little later about the reasons for such taciturnity, but now about the substance. The meeting agenda mentioned only one question—about the general chapter on the charters of Tyumen Oblast and the Khanty-Mansi and Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrugs. As is provided in the regulations, a protocol of agreement emerged in which the parties wrote what they will do, and how. But differences remained.

And they are the earlier differences: Does the authority of the oblast organs apply—or not apply—to the okrugs, and are the okrugs part of the oblast or not? Everyone probably already understands that there is no question of some kind of secession. The question concerns the preservation of economic independence—the okrugs are simply afraid of being "crushed" by the authoritative structures of the oblast.

But they do not intend to lose economic independence—they are not confident that it is possible to administer the territory more effectively from Tyumen than from Salekhard and Khanty-Mansiysk. The "dissension" has already lasted several years, but inasmuch as Tyumen cannot exist without the okrugs, and the okrugs cannot exist without Tyumen, then they have to meet each other half way. This was done by the deputies of the soviets, the acme of whose efforts was an agreement on the demarcation of powers between the oblast and the okrugs, where it was possible to come to an agreement practically about everything, except for the use of mineral resources. But the deputies of the Dumas are taking the same route, only on a new road.

The relations of the three components of the Federation, which are equal in rights according to the Constitution, are built on the basis of a federal law or agreement. We should not expect mercy from Moscow—not for us. But it is possible for one to come to an agreement only by basing it on something. And this "something" should be charters—the charter of the oblast and the charters of the okrugs. And even though we have equal rights, the charters have to be coordinated, and it is better to do this with the help of a general chapter, where the relations between the oblast and the okrugs are prescribed, since the founding fathers of the Constitution did not concern themselves with this.

The chronology of events developed approximately in the following way. On 15 December 1994, the State Duma of the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug adopted a charter and sent it for signature to Yuriy Neyelov, the chief of administration. He signed it on 22 December and sent it to L. Roketskiy, the chief of the oblast administration. On 5 January 1995 L. Roketskiy wrote a letter addressed to N. Baryshnikov of the Oblast Duma with a request to convene the Duma.

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On 16 January the Duma convened and recommended to the Yamalites to stop the action of its charter and together with Tyumen and Khanty-Mansiysk to work until 15 February on a general chapter for all three charters. They agreed, and this work was conducted intensively. In particular, on 1-2 February, representatives of all three Dumas at the expert level gathered at the office of V. Pervushin, the secretary of the administration council. On 2 February the draft was ready, and V. Pervushin sent it to all three chiefs of administration: L. Roketskiy, A. Filipenko, and Yu. Neyelov.

A trilateral group, already at the level of officials, arrived in Tyumen on 14-15 February in order to polish up the text of the general chapter submitted by the experts and to sign it. The signatures were affixed. From the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug—A. Filipenko and S. Sobyannin, from the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug—Yu. Heyelov and V. Voronin, and from Tyumen Oblast—N. Baryshnikov, chairman of the oblast Duma. The oblast administration in the person of Yu. Konev refused to affix his signature, having written a special opinion.

On 14 February the chief of the administration of the oblast sent his draft agreement to the okrugs, which, let us put it this way, greatly surprised both the authorities of the okrugs and especially the experts of the okrugs. The gist of the surprise is that, according to the decree of the oblast Duma and the decisions of the three administrations, a trilateral expert group was established that developed a general draft agreement. It is to this that the oblast Duma refused to affix its signature. Not to mention even the fact that the dates had "expired." If one had one's own vision of the problem, it was necessary somehow to have coordinated it, including it in the negotiating process.

The oblast Duma convened on 22 February. According to the logic of things, it was expected that that part of the general chapter of the charters that was already coordinated and countersigned with the signatures of all three parties would be approved, but this did not occur. The deputies of the oblast Duma "broke" the signature of N. Baryshnikov, their chairman, and after a long and very emotional discussion, the general chapter in the interpretation of the Tyumen Oblast Duma took on a wording that was principally different from the former wording.

And so now, on 23 March at a meeting of the three Dumas in Khanty-Mansiysk, Chairman S. Sobyannin, after relating the chronology that you have already read, tried to hear the arguments of the representatives of the oblast Duma, inasmuch as he did not succeed in finding any kinds of differences with the deputies of the Yamalo-Nenets Duma.

And... silence.

"Vladimir Nikolayevich, perhaps you will say something?" He addressed Vladimir Tretyakov, the deputy

chairman of the oblast Duma who, as far as I understood, was "one of the foremen of this scenario."

"I will speak, but later," Tretyakov replied, "I am now acquiring information."

"All right, who else wants to speak?"

No one wanted to.

"I request, nonetheless, that you speak. I cannot drag it out of you."

Again, silence.

"All right, let us call a five-minute recess."

The recess, in fact, did not give anything, and the rather prolonged silence was broken by Petr Volostrigov, the deputy chairman of the Khanty-Mansi Okrug Duma:

"How could you break that which had already been signed?! You are directly pushing the okrugs to accept your charters without coordination with the charter of the oblast! Who needs this, and why?"

The question, of course, is interesting. There was an answer to it... silence. And although the sixth item of the protocol of agreement that all three parties signed proposed to continue the conciliatory process of settling mutual relations between the oblast and the okrugs, it seemed to me that the deputies did not get any kind of pleasure out of the work. It was good that they at least continued the conciliatory process and did not "slam the gate."

Novosibirsk Official on Local Socioeconomic Problems

954F2096A *Novosibirsk SOVETSKAYA SIBIR in Russian 14 Apr 95 p 2*

[Report by V. Palchikov: "There Will Be No Manna From Heaven: From the Oblast Administration Collegium"; first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tatarsk—Opening the meeting of the on-site collegium on the subject of Tatarskiy Rayon's socioeconomic problems, the head of the oblast administration, I.I. Indinok, warned right away that in these difficult times we cannot count on anyone but ourselves. So far, people believe in us, and we should not forget it; we should know how to listen to one another and little by little accumulate experience.

The main task, as defined by I. Indinok, is to survive in this time of troubles. Enough of blaming the "higher ups." We should look for the cause of failures first of all in our own backyard.

Speaking at the collegium, head of the rayon administration, V.P. Noskov, said that Tatarskiy Rayon is one of the least subsidized in the oblast. Over the years of reforms, the herd of cattle, including cows, has shrunk. The herd of sheep decreased fourfold, and of swine—by

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25 percent. Last year the farms were hit by a drought and did not have a good harvest, which affected the productivity of the public herd of livestock. There are quite a few problems in the spring planting campaign, which are, generally speaking, typical for the oblast and the country.

Having said that they are not asking for greenhouse conditions, Noskov nevertheless asked to pay particular attention to the rayon. There are all the good reasons for it. The rayon's processing sector is in a sad state; its capital assets, first and foremost equipment, are worn out. There is a serious problem with water, which affects equally the city and the rayon. The water is unfit for drinking, but soon even this kind may not be available, since the wells in joint-stock societies and kolkhozes have served out their useful life. New ones need to be drilled. Where will the money come from?!

The first turn at the rostrum was given to those whose affairs are in a most dismal state, those who have no confidence in the future. N.I. Pogorelov, chairman of the AO [joint-stock society] Priomskoye, stepped up the rostrum. He has little to be happy about. Over the year, the milk yield per cow was nine quintals; the grain harvest amounted to a little more than four quintals per hectare; people are not paid wages for years. The collective is periodically supported by small infusions of money, so that people could live and work.

"How are your people?" asks I. Indinok.

This question was brought up time and again. Because in the final count everything depends on them, the people. This problem was viewed from a dual angle: People should feel noticed. "Achievement boards! Are they in place?" asked Ivan Ivanovich. "Restore them. Thank the people. The human factor, as we used to say in the past—it has not gone away and still plays its role."

Rural residents are beginning to understand that aid from the oblast and rayon is not unlimited: Where would they get the money, if there is no product? Prosperity can only be ensured by one's own labor, instead of waiting for handouts, which sometimes are perceived as manna from heaven. You get it—you use it; and as to repayment—maybe, if we can. F.A. Chuyev, deputy chief of the department of food and agriculture, who had visited AO Kazachyemyskoye on the eve of the collegium, told a typical story. All the environment needed for work is in place here: Solid animal husbandry facilities; no shortage of feed; but when you look at the cows, you get depressed over their sad condition. The issue is quite simple—the farm is rudderless. Drinking is rampant; business is left to run by itself. In some places in the rayon, elaborated the speaker, the yield of milk is 5,000-6,000 kg per cow, and in some—1,000 kg. Which means that instead of one cow such farms need six, using up tremendous amounts of feed. Hence, the human factor, the leadership skill and talent, is especially important.

The head of the oblast administration visited the Neudachino village. He was surprised to find that considering production indicators achieved on this farm (they

are high), wages are relatively low. Every kopek is counted in Neudachino. The AO office is housed in a dilapidated building. Director Ivan Enns' answer was straightforward: "The office is not the most important item—we have more vital tasks to deal with." Every specialist here carries out several duties. A secretary-typist at the same time serves as a dispatcher and a personnel manager. One would wish every farm to operate this way.

Work organization is excellent at the Kuznetsovo farm. Its manager is L.P. Zhivetyeva, a Hero of Socialist Labor, who knows her business inside out. The cows are clean, well cared for. Productivity is high. "I wish we had a hundred of Zhivetyevas in the oblast," said the administration head wistfully. Wrapping up his observations of the farms as such, he noted that it is impossible to help everyone, to make everyone comfortable. There is not enough money for it. At the same time, Ivan Ivanovich emphasized unequivocally that there is no reason to give up on collectives. People need to live and work.

Everyone who wanted to speak up was given the opportunity; naturally, each spoke of his own sore spots. The local bread-baking factory is in a dismal state. Production has hit the bottom. Our Omsk neighbors are at fault, to a certain extent, because the bread and bakery products intervention still continues. This is happening because a loaf of bread costs less in Omsk Oblast. Why? This is not a new issue; it comes up at every meeting. The answer is that the structure of industry in the city of Omsk is such that it can afford substantial subsidies generated by oil-refining and tire production. Bread factory director G. Stashkov proposed to buy flour for bread-baking right here, in the rayon, instead of looking for it in all the nooks and crannies. There is an excellent flour mill in Novopervomayskoy. If we establish trade relations with it, we will be able to reduce the production cost of bread.

The speakers' presentations were businesslike; they came up with concrete proposals. Director of AO Kiyevskoye I. Dovgal told how they are dealing with the problem of supplying Tatarsk residents with berries in the fall. Each time, a pilgrimage of rayon residents to Omsk Oblast begins—to Chistoozerka, where the orchards are. Now an orchard has been planted in the Bogdanovka village. And not a small one—40 hectares. The director is concerned with the goose-breeding problem. He said that the herd of geese is declining not only in Tatarskiy Rayon, but also at the neighbors'. In the past, said Nikolay Ivanovich, we were the top producer in Russia in this respect. The reason are abundantly clear. A gosling costs more than 9,000 rubles. This is a lot of money for a rural resident. So they refuse to buy the birds. Perhaps specialized farms breeding goslings for the population should be subsidized?

Reverend Dmitriy also spoke at the collegium. He reminded the gathering that it is time to think about the spiritual revival of the people. In this connection he

raised the question of building a church in Tatarsk. So far, there is no progress. Head of the city administration N.P. Gaydamak reminded everyone that the question of a nursing home had been discussed in Tatarsk for years. The money had been collected, but was devalued by inflation. We have to help the elderly.

It is difficult to enumerate all the questions raised at the collegium: ecology, purification facilities for the city, the impact of the Semipalatinsk test site on people's health and life.

Summing up, the head of the oblast administration identified the main directions. The first and foremost task is to protect people's health. The housing problem has become particularly acute in the country. Nevertheless, construction is proceeding little by little both in the city and the rayon. We have to do everything possible, emphasized Indinok in conclusion, to raise the next generation properly. We should not forget about the children. And another point—the cadres. Experience shows that where competent managers are at the helm of a farm, things get done. Some of the managers, however, still cannot distinguish a market from a bazaar.

Army Deserters in Deadly Clash With Police in Buryatia

LD2104052595 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 0144 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By Aleksey Subbotin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ulan-Ude, 21 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Soldiers, who deserted their unit in Buryatia on 20 April, offered armed resistance to the law enforcement bodies during the night. Two of the soldiers were killed in an exchange of fire and one was detained. There has been no information on the capture of the fourth deserter.

In addition to the two officers of the military unit, who were killed by the criminals on Thursday, a driver of a militia car and an officer of the Buryatian Interior Ministry were also killed in today's shoot-out. Two other officers of the militia received serious wounds. An investigation is under way.

Further on Buryatia 'Shootout'

LD2104103695 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1012 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By Aleksey Subbotin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ulan-Ude April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—Two out of four armed soldiers, who defected from their military unit in Buryatia in southern Siberia on Thursday, were killed overnight in a shootout with police. Two police officers were also killed and two heavily wounded, TASS learned from interior sources of the republic.

The third defector was seized, while the fourth succeeded to escape and was detained later in the outskirts of the Buryatian capital. He rendered no resistance.

The death toll of the defection comprised six people as two army officers were killed by the defectors when they were fleeing their unit Thursday. The officers were deputy commander of the unit and the head of the patrol team.

The four defectors escaped with seven submachine guns and ammunition in a "Volga" car. They were all first-year recruits enlisted in various cities of Siberia.

Another four soldiers also deserted together with them, but later voluntarily returned to the unit.

Kaliningrad Official on Interregional Links

WS1704141595 Kaliningrad *YANTARNYY KRAY in Russian* 6 Apr 95 p 2

[Interview with Oleg Isakov, deputy chairman of the Kaliningrad Oblast Administration's Economics and Forecast Committee, by V. Chertkov; place and date not given: "We Closely Watch and We Are Closely Watched"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Chertkov] Oleg Dmitriyevich [Isakov], you are in charge of interregional economic relations. Tell me, please, is there a program in this area, or do such relations develop haphazardly?

[Isakov] Attempts to develop a program of interregional relations are currently under way. This work, by the way, is being conducted at the level of the Ministry of National and Regional Affairs.

Regarding the Kaliningrad Oblast Administration, our task is to approach—at least slightly—the level of interregional relations that existed in 1991. Other subjects of our Federation also have the same desire, because each of them can only survive economically through integration.

Kaliningrad Oblast has extremely close relations with northwestern, central, and southern regions of Russia. These relations are legally based on bilateral agreements. Such agreements have also been signed with most oblasts and republics of Russia.

Regarding interregional relations, mention must be made about the expansion of economic cooperation between our oblast and its closest neighbors, primarily Lithuania, Belarus, Latvia, and Poland.

[Chertkov] What are your priorities in the development of interregional relations? Which regions do you prefer? Or do you welcome everyone who knocks at our "door?"

[Isakov] We, naturally, are ready to cooperate with everyone who desires to cooperate on a mutually advantageous basis. Missions from Bashkiria, Ingushetia, and Yaroslavl Oblasts have been opened in Kaliningrad. The

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administrations of Nizhny Novgorod and Perm Oblasts would also like to open missions here.

Certainly, there are priorities that are based on the geographic location of our partners. I think this is clear: We must take into consideration our transportation expenditures.

[Chertkov] What is the true nature of economic relations between our oblast and other regions? What are the forms of these relations?

[Isakov] The forms of economic relations links are most diverse, such as bilateral agreements, missions, and fairs. By the way, we pay special attention to holding fairs, even though this form of cooperation has opponents. Fairs are our connecting links—they are very efficient in establishing, bolstering, and extending cooperation. For example, contracts that were concluded during a three-day fair of Yaroslavl Oblast in Kaliningrad amounted to 24 billion rubles. A slightly lower index characterizes a Kaliningrad-based fair of Bashkirian producers. We are planning to hold a fair of Kaliningrad producers in May. Potential buyers from all Russian regions, the CIS, and from the far abroad have been invited to participate.

One of the interesting and promising forms of interregional cooperation is the establishment of the "Russia-Prospect" Corporation, that includes Bashkiria, Komi, and a number of Russian oblasts, as well as Kaliningrad Oblast.

In addition, direct links between producers of various regions are actively used. In particular, the "Kvarts" enterprise has concluded a profitable contract with Bashkiria to assemble specific types of products. This is not a singular example.

Regarding the nature of interregional relations, they are primarily characterized by the economic interests of our partners.

[Chertkov] In general, have there been any practical results from interregional integration in our region, or are we just watching each other?

[Isakov] Undoubtedly, there have been practical results and I have described a few of them. The primary issue is that the process of regional economic cooperation has finally made headway.

[Chertkov] What can our oblast sell to our partners, or in other words, how can our oblast attract partners?

[Isakov] Of course, our region is attractive as a transit point. We have a port on the Baltic Sea which is free of ice year round—that is unique for Russia. We have two lines of West European narrow-gauge railroads. The potential capacity of our airport is also of interest. The now operating international ferry connection has also improved this favorable situation. The potential capacity of our regional motor transportation system,

which constantly expands the reach of our international deliveries, is also great. In general, our oblast is a genuine door to Europe.

[Chertkov] Can we hope that Bashkiria and other regions will invest great funds in our region? Has there been any headway in this regard, or are things still being negotiated?

[Isakov] We can hope for such investments. Bashkiria and Kazakhstan have an interest in the development of our seaport complex.

[Chertkov] The well-known presidential edict [to remove certain tax exemptions] has far-reaching negative consequences for our oblast economy. Bankers are in a panic, because most signed contracts are being reconsidered or annulled. The fact that Kaliningrad Oblast was deprived of its privileges will certainly lead to an outflow of capital, and it will make the "Yantar" free trade zone not as attractive in the eyes of potential partners. What do you think about all this?

[Isakov] Certainly, this edict has negated a few huge efforts that had been undertaken by our administration. The authority of our free trade zone has been undermined. Nevertheless, much will depend on the efficiency of compensatory mechanisms.

[Chertkov] I am sure that in developing relations with other regions, you emphasized the advantages of our free trade zone. The lifelessness of this concept is obvious. What other "bait" must be invented now?

[Isakov] I believe that the way out of the predicament will be found. It cannot be otherwise, because there is an entire oblast with a population of 1 million people—geographically separated from Russia—behind the implementation of a free trade zone concept. Our earlier privileges only adjusted our economic conditions to that of other regions. The Russian Government must also realize this.

In my opinion, the adoption of a relevant law and a government resolution will improve the situation in our oblast. With regard to partners, and I mentioned this before, we will attract them with our geographic location—in the center of Europe—and developed transportation infrastructure.

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin: Lowest Point of Economic Crisis Passed

LD2004181295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1736 GMT 20 Apr 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 20 (ITAR-TASS)—The economic performance indicators for the first quarter of this year show that the lowest point of the industrial recession has already been passed, Russian

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told the Social Welfare Ministry Collegium on Thursday.

According to the premier, the overall output decline in the period of January-March 1995 was only 5 per cent as low as in the same period last year, while the last year's figure showed a 17-per-cent decrease as compared with the same period of the previous year. For the first time in the past few months, such industries as metallurgy and petrochemistry "began operating with an active balance", and demand for machine-building produce grew substantially, Chernomyrdin noted.

In carrying out reforms in 1995, we have chosen financial stabilization as our top-priority goal, which prompted the need for a tough budget, the prime minister emphasised. Another "black Tuesday" was being prepared this year, he noted. A whole system is functioning "in the underground" for this purpose. It is inspired by forces which make fortunes on skyrocketing inflation and economic instability. However, we can no longer do without tough measures, otherwise we will protract indefinitely the current economic recession. This is especially dangerous in the situation, when equipment and technologies in certain industries have become outdated for 70 per cent, Chernomyrdin stressed.

Speaking about the forthcoming parliamentary elections, the prime minister said the government was much interested in the Federal Assembly (parliament) that would support the course of reforms free of populist slogans. We do not promise that this will be an easy process, and we will promise our voters to do only what we really can do, the Russian head of government emphasised.

Economists See Growth, Repatriation of Capital by 1996

MK1504120895 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Mikhail Lantsman under the "Prognosis" rubric: "Economic Growth Expected by Year's End if Government Finance Policy Survives August"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A "Review of the Russian Economy," compiled by the Center's specialists and covering the medium-term prospects for the Russian economy in 1995, was unveiled to journalists yesterday at a news briefing by the Working Center of Economic Reforms (WCER). The authors of the review predict an end to the industrial slump and economic growth by the year's end if the government manages to keep under control the main financial parameters—the size of the money supply, the budget deficit, and the rate of inflation. A stabilization of macroeconomic indices will make it possible, WCER head Sergey Pavlenko thinks, to increase the inflow of investments to the national economy by means of the population's hard-currency savings and repatriation of capital taken abroad earlier. In Mr. Pavlenko's words, the reduction of inflation to 5 percent a month will make it possible to revive confidence in the Russian ruble.

WCER specialists think that it will not be possible to make more precise forecasts until after August or September. A time when the state's solvency, including its political solvency, will undergo a severe test. In August-September, Sergey Pavlenko expects, will be the focal point of a whole number of negative things: the deadline for paying off three- and six-month state short-term bonds, and the seasonal costs for the harvest and for supplying goods to territories in the North. Besides, summer's end is traditionally a time when tax revenues are at a low ebb. In the heat of the election battles, various political forces will try to push the government toward financial bankruptcy. Financial market operators are already reacting to impending risks by sharply raising the rate of the dollar in futures deals maturing at the end of summer.

The government nevertheless expects to stay within rigid parameters and patch up holes in the budget by issuing new securities—gold and hard-currency bonds. In Mr. Pavlenko's view, selling the bonds will make it possible to bring in as budget revenues a good deal of "fugitive" capital, that is to say, money which people have hidden either at home "in their mattresses" or in Western bank accounts. In the WCER specialists' estimate, non-criminal "fugitive" capital amounts to \$23 to \$24 billion dollars, and that of criminal "fugitive" capital to nearly \$18 billion.

Government Adopts Resolution on Securities Market

LD1804223995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1257 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By BIZNES-TASS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 April—The full text of the Russian Federation government resolution "On Measures To Develop the Securities Market in the Russian Federation," received by BIZNES-TASS today, says that the protection of the rights of investors and other individuals operating with securities, along with the protection of the ownership rights of citizens and legal persons, are an important prerequisite for the development of the securities market.

The resolution sets specific dates by which the government's instructions in this sphere are to be carried out. For example, a list should be drawn up by 25 April of federal state enterprises to be privatized by the end of 1995, as well as a planned schedule for the sale of privatized enterprises with authorized capital of over R250 million which is held by the relevant property foundations. By this date, the relevant ministries and departments are also to draw up and confirm the procedures for nonresidents wishing to acquire securities from Russian issues bodies.

The resolution stipulates that checks on compliance with Russian Federation legislation on registering the shareholders of companies set up during privatization should be carried out by 1 May 1995.

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Federal executive power bodies have been instructed not to consider matters connected with granting state financial support, foreign credit or investment to joint stock companies violating the rules on the registering of shareholders, the holding of shareholders meetings and election of directors councils as well as the rules on presenting accounts on their financial and economic activities.

Parliament, President Finally Agree on Banking Laws

MK1304125195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Aleksey Kirpichnikov in the "Banks" column: "The Power Branches' Agreement Has Extended to Banking Laws. Tatyana Paramonova's Status Should Be Clarified Within a Month After They Are Signed by the President"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday's adoption by the State Duma of two "banking" laws—after the president and the Federation Council had vetoed the Duma's previously-approved texts—was amazingly peaceful. The deputies managed to coordinate the new options for changes and amendments to the law "On the Central Bank" with the president, and the law "On Banks and Banking Activity" with the Federation Council, whereupon they adopted both documents as a whole. [passage omitted]

The president also wanted to increase his role in overseeing the Central Bank's activity. Here the Duma members could not give up their rights, and a compromise was found: The Central Bank presents current information to the head of state; however, the State Duma, after receiving an annual report from the Central Bank, then sends it to the president and the government. Members of the Board of Directors are appointed by the lower house on the nomination of the Central Bank chairman, which is coordinated with the head of state.

The Duma agreed with Boris Yeltsin's proposal that normative enactments by the Central Bank (within its jurisdiction) be binding on Federation power bodies and Federation components. [passage omitted]

For his part, the president met the deputies half way, withdrawing his proposals on the National Banking Council and its accountability to the Central Bank.

The head of state should replace a nominee for Central Bank chairman with another nominee within two weeks, if the first nominee has been rejected by the Duma. He may not submit the same nominee more than twice. It is expected that the present collision over Tatyana Paramonova will be settled within a month after the law enters into force. [passage omitted]

Number of Registered Unemployed Increases in 1995

LD2104102195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0944 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By Lilia Kuznetsova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—The number of officially registered unemployed in Russia increased by more than 284 thousand people in the first three months of this year to reach 1,921 thousand by April 1, according to Irina Milkina, head of the Federal Employment Service's press department.

According to Milkina, unemployment grew particularly fast in North Ossetia, Ingushetia, Tatarstan, the Chita, Amur and Tyumen regions.

Milkina told ITAR-TASS that the level of unemployment in Russia as a whole now stood at 2.6 per cent. Difference is considerable among regions. Undisputed leaders are Ingushetia, the Ivanovo, Pskov and Yaroslavl regions of Russia. The Orenburg, Belgorod and Smolensk regions, and the republic of Saha (Yakutia) are relatively better-off in this respect. The Muscovites do not have to worry much: The level of unemployment in the capital is a mere 0.4 per cent, 6.5 times lower than the country's average.

Wage Increases Still Lag Behind Price Inflation

MM2104091895 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 95 p 4

[Report by Yelena Arakelyan under the "Wages" rubric: "The Chukchi Receive the Most in Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The average Russian needs to have nearly 160,000 rubles [R] in his pocket for food alone. That is how the State Committee for Statistics assesses the monthly "basket" of 19 basic food products (bread, millet, vermicelli, sugar, butter, beef, sausage, milk, sour cream, cheese, eggs, potatoes, cabbage, apples, onions, and cigarettes).

Inhabitants of cities in the Far East and East Siberia need the fattest purse: The food "basket" costs over R300,000. Whereas in the Volga region it is just over 100,000. Muscovites need around 200,000 to buy the "basket," while Petersburgers need around 175,000.

At the beginning of 1995 average wages had crossed the R300,000 mark. Although they are apparently growing in ruble terms, in actual fact the Russians have started getting less. Whereas last July our average earnings were equivalent to \$109, and in December to \$98, in February of this year they were worth only 72 "greenbacks." Until the summer of 1994 the average Russian wage was increasing by and large more quickly than inflation.

According to official figures, workers in the oil-extracting industry (nearly R900,000 a month) and the coal industry (around 690,000) earn more than other workers in our country. The poorest, as usual, are the rural workers (around 130,000), as well as workers in light industry, culture, and art (just over 180,000).

As regards the regions, the Chukot Autonomous Okrug receives the highest average earnings—over R1 million.

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Official Supplies List of Enterprises To Be Privatized

LD1304123695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1203 GMT 13 Apr 95

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Igor Ignatyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—A list of over 7,000 Russian enterprises whose shares will be sold in 1995 during the second stage of privatization was supplied on Thursday by Sergey Belyayev, chief of the Russian Federal State Property Committee. He gave a news conference in Moscow together with Vladimir Sokolov, head of the Russian Federal Property Fund.

Belyayev said the list taking up over 100 pages was drawn up on proposals of property committees and property funds of subjects of the Russian Federation.

It is not a matter of seasonal sales or massive sales of state-owned packages of shares of privatized enterprises, Belyayev said. On the basis on the list, investors will be able to define their priorities and begin planned preparation, while the state property committee will facilitate their operations on the exchange market.

Belyayev is of the opinion that the list may be lengthened by including enterprises the ban on the sale of whose shares will be lifted in 1995 and by including shares of holding companies (among them petroleum, forestry and others).

The schedule of auctions and sales will be published additionally.

The State Property Committee will be striving for biggest openness, Belyayev said. "I believe this approach will be effective", he said. He intimated that he expects the arrival of major Western investors in Russia in the spring and summer. We shall try to ensure good conditions for them, but not privileged conditions, Belyayev said.

Gazprom's Natural Gas Output Dropped in 1994

LD1404163495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1443 GMT 14 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—Russia's giant gas company "Gazprom" produced 570.7 billion cubic metres of natural gas in 1994, which is seven billion less than in 1993, board chairman Rem Vyakhirev told a new conference on Friday.

The output downfall was caused by a decline in consumption of gas in Russia to 31 billion cubic metres per annum over the recent years, according to Vyakhirev.

At the same time, gas exports increased to 5.2 billion cubic metres.

The decrease in gas production is a temporary failure. It is highly probable that it will gradually mount up, Vyakhirev said.

In 1994, Gazprom produced 7.9 million tons of condensed gas, 2.1 tons of sulphur, about 400 tons of petrol, 950 thousand tons of diesel fuel and 626 thousand tons of liquefied gas, Gazprom's board chairman added.

Gazprom Monopoly May Be Broken Into Separate Gas Firms

MK1804124095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 18 Apr 95 p 9

[Report by Aleksey Sukhodoyev: "News Conference by Gazprom Management. Gazprom Still Does Not Want To Share Its Money"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The news conference by the Gazprom Russian joint-stock company [RAO] management held the evening of 14 April was technically devoted to the company's first ever shareholders meeting, scheduled for the end of May. Actually, however, chiefs of the concern used this event (in fact, the first occasion where journalists could talk to the joint-stock company management) to demonstrate their resolve to do their utmost to keep the natural gas industry's single joint-stock company intact.

That the management unquestionably wishes to keep the Gazprom joint-stock company unchanged could be seen from the slogan that caught the eye of those who attended the news conference—"What Is Good for Gazprom Is Good for Russia." Arguments in favor of this statement were fully traditional and fit in with a formula that has repeatedly been invoked by the RAO's advocates: The gas industry owes its stable operation to its unity, so disrupting this unity now would mean to kill what is the fuel and energy sector's sole short-term stable industry.

Gazprom can hardly be blamed for building an incorrect cause-and-effect relationship—the fully commendable results of the RAO's operation last year speak for themselves. Opponents who argue that the industry can no longer function in its present shape have their axe to grind, however. On one hand, the RAO is a government agent managing on its behalf the country's single system of gas supplies and, therefore, cannot be a purely commercial business. On the other, this is an economically independent agent (RAO Gazprom Board Chairman Rem Vyakhirev has said with a certain degree of pride that the 1995 budget does not provide for state assistance to the gas industry) that approaches the development of the Russian gas market exclusively from the point of view of corporate gain.

Actually, for this very reason attempts to demonopolize Gazprom have been made since it was set up in February of last year. The gas industry's split into a number of separate companies would suit many people at once. For local authorities, the best possible option would be

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regional gas companies that would supply cheap fuel to debt-plagued oblast power networks. The Fuel and Energy Ministry would go for a slightly different option under which a number of vertically integrated companies (similar to those presently existing in the oil industry) would be set up on Gazprom's basis. Under this plan, the gas industry would become much more manageable, whereas currently it is hard to tell who the boss is in relations between the RAO and the ministry. Judging from the sharply mounting pressure (suffice it to recall the revision of gas excise and export duties), Gazprom has every reason to be fearful of an upcoming split.

Shafranik on Plans To Increase Share in Caspian Consortium

LD1804181195 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1421 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Igor Ivantsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—"Russia is planning to increase its share in the international consortium for development of Caspian oil deposits," Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik told ITAR-TASS today. The minister attended a news conference at the Russian Government building.

It is the matter of an international project to involve Russia and major foreign oil companies. The Russian Lukoil company has a ten per cent share in the consortium. Last week the Azeri side decided to transfer five per cent of its share to the Turkish side.

Starting from 1997 Russia will be ready to pump five million tonnes of oil from Caspian oil deposits every year, said the minister. The Russian variant of oil transportation is the most efficient, bearing in mind it does not require major spending and can be done within a short time.

Other variants of transportation will take no less than four billion dollars and some ten years to build a new leg of the oil pipeline, said Shafranik. What is more, the supposed pipelines will have to cross geologically-complicated terrain and regions of political instability.

Lukoil Seeks To Further Dent Baku's Share in Oil Consortium

MK2004081095 Moscow *KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian* 20 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Georgiy Bovt: "Struggle for Caspian Oil. What Is Allowed to Exxon, May Be Allowed to Lukoil"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Heydar Aliyev received Terry Kunz, head of the U.S. company Exxon. Their handshake sealed the decision on transferring to this company 5 percent of Azerbaijan's stake in the Caspian oil consortium, which had earlier been promised to Iran. The importance of the event—not so much

in economic, but rather in political terms—was underscored by the presence of U.S. Energy Under Secretary William White in Baku. Baku's stake may appear to be similar to shagreen leather [as in the story by Balzac, in which the owner of a piece of such leather remained young until it shrunk entirely, resulting in his death]: Lukoil, too, has been talking increasingly loudly that its piece of the oil pie (10 percent) should also be increased.

Azerbaijan has already turned over to foreign partners half of the 20 percent of the oil consortium equity it originally owned. On one hand, this has been done to the accompaniment of promises to finance Baku's participation in the project (Azerbaijan is due to contribute about \$1.5 billion). On the other, Baku is trying to attract as many Western partners in the consortium as possible so as to shore up its position and to counterbalance Russia. The emergence of Exxon in the list of consortium members is a result of strong pressure from Washington. A number of U.S. experts even suggest that by lobbying in favor of Exxon, Washington was seeking not only to expel Iran from the consortium, but partly wanted to compensate this firm for possible losses should Congress prohibit it and other U.S. companies from buying annually \$4 billion worth of Iranian crude via their European subsidiaries.

Another 5 percent of the Azerbaijani stake has been handed over to the Turkish National Oil Company by way of increasing its share from 1.75 percent to 6.75 percent. But while Exxon agreed to finance some of Azerbaijan's expenses, no money should be expected from the Turks. This cannot but give rise to a suggestion that the sale of the Azerbaijani stake is set to continue, for Baku has no money to pay \$1.5 billion in contribution. Lukoil is one possible buyer.

Matters of taking over or increasing stakes of consortium partners are to be resolved on the basis of consensus between its members. So far there have been no reasons to suggest that Lukoil would veto, say, the admission of Exxon into the consortium. But apart from allocating shares and future profits, there is yet another question concerning the consortium members and governments standing behind them: Which way will Caspian oil flow—across Russia toward Novorossiysk, or across Turkey? Moscow insists on choosing the first option, expecting as a result not only to charge money for oil transit, but also to control the valve, which is not so much an economic, but rather a political factor. Ankara entertains the same hopes. The past few days have seen a crack emerging in Baku's hitherto adamant stance ("no oil will flow across Russia!"): Certain officials have started saying that at the initial stage, while a pipeline across Turkey will be under construction, oil may well be transported via Russia. As a matter of fact, the construction of an oil pipeline is an expensive and lengthy project. As for Russia, according to the Russian Foreign Ministry, it is capable of pumping all the oil that could be produced in the region without having to increase the capacity of its pipelines. Starting in 1997, Fuel and

Energy Ministry Yuriy Shafranik said, it will be able to pump an extra 5 million tonnes of oil from the Caspian Sea.

Until recently, the Foreign Ministry and the Fuel and Energy Ministry had different views regarding the consortium. Recently, however (following a confidential meeting between Kozyrev and Shafranik, it is said), it was apparently decided not to air their dirty linen. As of today, the summary is as follows: The Foreign Ministry is concerned first of all over the pipeline route, while an increase in LUKoil's share is of secondary importance to it; for the Fuel and Energy Ministry, just the other way around. Decisions on both questions are about to be made. They can well be considered as a package. The results of behind-the-scenes talks will largely depend on the Russian ambassador to Azerbaijan. Presently this post is held by Valter Shoniya, who was leaning closer to the Fuel and Energy Ministry's stance than to the views of his chief, Andrey Kozyrev, last fall, when the oil consortium was set up. The KHABAR- SERVICE news agency refuted the other day reports by the Russian mass media (KOMMERSANT-DAILY wrote about that) that the Russian Foreign Ministry, displeased with Valter Shoniya's stance on the status of the Caspian Sea and Azerbaijani ownership of sea oil fields, recalled him from the post of head of diplomatic mission. But, according to information received by KOMMERSANT-DAILY, Shoniya will shortly cease being ambassador, and an appropriate procedure for appointing his successor (KOMMERSANT-DAILY knows his name) has already been set in motion. Time will tell whether this will affect decisions on LUKoil's share or the routes of laying the pipeline.

Need for Legislation Delaying Sakhalin Oil Bonanza

MM2004101795 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 95 p 6

[ITAR-TASS report: "'Project of the Century' Initialed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokyo 18 April—The "project of the century" for the development by a Russian-U.S.-Japanese consortium of oil and gas on the shelf off the island of Sakhalin has been initialed by representatives of the sides and is being prepared for signing in mid-May. This was confirmed to your ITAR-TASS correspondent by the administration for natural resources and power engineering at the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

The overall value of all the work connected with the development of this biggest deposit in East Asia, whose reserves are being assessed at 2.5 billion barrels of oil and 425 billion cubic meters of natural gas, exceeds \$10 billion.

It is planned that, following the signing of a general agreement, exploration work will be carried out in the next five years to the tune of \$400 million and that

petroleum supply centers, methods of transportation, and other questions will be determined.

Russia as represented by the government, the U.S. Exxon corporation, and a Japanese private company called "Sakhalin Oil and Gas Development" are planning to divide the profit from the extraction of oil and gas among themselves in the ratio 40:30:30. However, Russia has not yet adopted the relevant legislation, which is hindering the Sakhalin project from moving into the implementation stage.

Arms Exports To Be 'Noticeably' Increased in Near Future

LD1804132395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1029 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 18 (Interfax)—Russia will noticeably increase arms exports in the nearest future, Chairman of the State Committee on the Defense Industry Viktor Glukikh told Interfax in an exclusive interview.

In his opinion there is no other way of attracting investments into the defense industry, which is now facing difficulties. Glukikh stressed that only the export of armaments and military hardware can save the industry.

At the moment Russia is building only one new submarine. Three out of five tank plants have been closed. They are operating at below capacity and remain viable only thanks to exports, the committee chairman stressed.

Glukikh said, during the past four years the Russian Air Force did not receive a single new heavy plane and this year it will not receive a single new fighter. This means the Russian army could be left without any new weaponry, Glukikh believes.

Meanwhile, budget spending on arms purchases, on military research and development have been cut to 3.2 percent of the gross domestic product, compared to 4.5 percent in 1994.

Export returns will allow munitions plants to carry out conversion programs as well as develop new effective weapons eagerly bought by many Western countries, Glukikh thinks. The sale of the S-300B missile complex to the US will permit the manufacturer of the system to develop an installation four times more effective than the old one, the official said.

Glukikh said that at the moment Russia's share in the world arms market is a mere 5 percent compared to the United States' 65 percent.

He announced that his state committee signed agreements with several banks on financing a number of conversion programs in light of the fact that the government earmarked a mere 1,400 trillion rubles for this purpose in 1995, many times less than necessary.

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The state committee is also planning to develop a doctrine for boosting defense technology until 2005-2010. These steps should help to concentrate the limited government funds into development of key armaments and military hardware.

Volskiy Welcomes Glukikh Remarks on Arms

LD1804155995 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskv in Russian 1200 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia is to increase its exports of weapons, State Defense Committee Chairman Viktor Glukhikh said. He thinks there is no other way of attracting investments in Russia's military-industrial complex. Glukhikh's view is shared by Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

[Begin Volskiy recording] I am convinced that it is necessary to broaden our arms exports, because the United States' exports have been several times larger than ours. This is not because their arms are better, but because we are being pushed out of all the markets, pushed out impertinently. Perhaps they have got political ambitions of their own. Take the deal with Iran, for instance. I cannot comment on it, of course, but what is involved is an ordinary water-cooled reactor which cannot be used for manufacturing any nuclear bombs. I can assure you of this, because I spent 20 years studying nuclear power engineering. At the same time the United States has been suggesting that it could supply the same kind of equipment to Iran. Furthermore, they are now holding talks on supplying water-cooled reactors to North Korea. Why do you think Americans are behaving like this? [end recording]

'Slump' Continues in Russian Military-Industrial Complex

LD1904152495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1311 GMT 19 Apr 95

[By Konstantin Savvin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 19 (ITAR-TASS)—The slump in the Russian munitions industry amounted to nearly 39 percent last year and to 23 percent in the first quarter of this year. The scientific and technical potential of the defence complex is disintegrating, and labour productivity halved.

This data were quoted at the first conference of the league for assistance to Russian munitions factories, which was held in Moscow on Wednesday. The forum was attended by managers of defence factories from Moscow, the Moscow region, St. Petersburg, Tula, Nizhny Novgorod, Samara, Rostov-on-Don, Omsk and Komsomolsk-on-Amur. They discussed the crisis situation in the industry.

Speakers noted at the conference that if the Russian Government does not take efficient measures, most

defence factories will go bankrupt, and the industry of high technologies and its personnel will disappear.

Delegates stressed that, under the present conditions, it is impossible to overcome negative trend of the crisis without a radical change in the economic course of the country.

League president Aleksey Shalunov cited facts of the aggravated situation in the defence complex in his report. He said that production both in the military and civil sectors of the military-industrial complex was actually paralysed.

Production dropped, on average, by 95 percent in all types of weapons. The output of civil goods declined by 29 percent in the first quarter as against the corresponding period last year. League executive director Vladimir Alfeyorov pointed to the need for overcoming the crisis as soon as possible and for carrying out structural reorganisation of the defence industry.

According to his information, 1,400 billion roubles was appropriated for conversion this year.

Delegates voiced support for further consolidation of munitions factories and for the earliest adoption of a bill on state defence order by the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) and a bill on protection of national interests of the Russian Federation in defensive sectors of science, technology and industry.

State To Pay Some of Farms' Interest Arrears

MM1904083795 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Debts to Agrarian Specialists Once Again Paid by Budget"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and the Central Bank of Russia have formulated and ratified "Instructions Governing the Procedure for the Payment Using Federal Budget Funds of Part of the Arrears in Respect of Interest Payable in 1994 on Centralized Loans Issued to Agricultural Commodity Producers Under All Forms of Ownership." Interest payable in 1994 on loans deferred until 1 September and extended by decision of the Government commission until 1 December 1994 is to be paid out of federal budget funds (up to 50 percent).

Easing of Agricultural Firms' Interest Payments Ordered

MM2104102995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Apr 95 First Edition p 4

[Russian Federation Government Directive No. 475-r signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin and dated 10 April 1995, Moscow]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is recommended that the Central Bank of the Russian Federation not charge

interest from 6 April 1995 on arrears on centralized credits granted in 1992-1994 to agricultural organizations in all forms of ownership, other agro-industrial complex and consumer cooperative organizations, and organizations engaged in the transportation, storage, and sale of produce (commodities) in areas of the Far North and equivalent localities, or interest, including overdue interest, on these credits.

Kirov Oblast Fears 'Devastated' Spring Sowing

MM1904114095 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 18 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Valeriy Tatarenkov: "Whiff of Famine From the Countryside"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kirov Oblast—Unless resolute measures are adopted to provide the countryside with vital material and technical resources, the spring sowing will be devastated. The presidiums of the Peasant Union and the Kirov Oblast Kolkhozes Council have stated this unequivocally.

Never before have the farmers here found themselves in such a critical situation in spring as now. The fleet of machinery, which has fallen to one-fourth of what it was in 1991 as a result of the lack of spare parts, is in practical terms not ready for work: One tractor and one truck in three and nearly every second agricultural machine are defective. Of the required 55,000 tonnes of diesel fuel and 20,000 tonnes of gasoline, 4,000 and 1,200 tonnes respectively have been obtained. Half of the rayons have not been fully provided with seeds for the spring grain crops, and they are 13,600 tonnes of seed potatoes short. The need for mineral fertilizers has only been met by 2.5 percent.

The overwhelming majority of farms have empty accounts. The servitude to credit and the noose of exorbitant fiscal levies are forcing many of them to give up the very land which had been handed over for eternal

use at one time, and which now, following the "black redistribution," has turned into land leased from the state. According to the assessment of the oblast дума commission for the budget, finances, and taxes, around 800,000 hectares are now "doing nothing," that is, one-third of all the arable land. The question of whether the remaining two-thirds will be sown remains unanswered at the moment, however, given the prevailing intolerable situation.

The countryside has slid to the verge of the abyss of famine. Warning of this, the peasants are by no means whipping up fears. These are the real fruits of the "state" policy of the powers that be. The Vyatka peasants are demanding from them—the Government and the Russian Federal Assembly—the very minimum and what is absolutely vital: to immediately allocate the promised preferential credits for conducting the spring sowing; and to defer the return of the unsecured debt on the credits taken out by farms in September-December, and also the payment for the centralized 1993-1994 credits, for 10 years with repayment in gradual equal parts and without having to pay interest or the previously announced fines.

The series of demands formulated by the leadership of the two public peasant organizations and permeated with profound alarm and responsibility for providing the population with vital food products, are also directed at the oblast administration. It is closer to the land and so it should see more clearly what the massive neglect of the arable lands is liable to result in, as well as the fact that a good master does not put the collar on a horse when he is about to harness it, but far earlier.

Will this shout of despair really remain a voice crying in the wilderness again, as has been the case on many occasions? Or maybe the top tiers of power have nevertheless already heard this cry, judging by certain government decrees? For the time being, the regions have not had a cent in terms of real assistance as a result of these documents.

International Affairs

Commentary Asks Why Council of Europe Admission Delayed

AU2004132795 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian
15 Apr 95 p 4

[Commentary by Valentyna Pysanska: "There Is No Constitution. And There Will Not Be One"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "There is no Constitution. And there will not be one." That is precisely what Hennadiy Udovenko, head of the external political department, told a Ministry of Foreign Affairs briefing. It is true, though, that he immediately specified: "At least not today or tomorrow."

In this case, Hennadiy Yosypovych [Udovenko] was not intending to comment on the situation at the Ukrainian parliament regarding the adoption of our state's Main Law, although the absence of the Constitution has a considerable impact on the course of other events that are extremely important for Ukraine.

In particular, its admission to the Council of Europe. It is not just today that it has become known that the Constitution will not be adopted as soon as one might wish. Daniel Tarschys, secretary general of the Council of Europe, pointed out after he visited Kiev last fall that Ukraine would be admitted to the Council of Europe notwithstanding the absence of the Main Law, since a substantial legislative foundation had already been prepared and democratic transformation was in progress.

What really happened there is anybody's guess, but, as Hennadiy Udovenko stated, Ukraine has already been knocking on all possible doors to make itself heard: Quite a lot of meetings on these issues have taken place at various representative levels, and an extensive exchange of letters is in progress. However, the impression arises that somebody has put an eternal brake on this case, while the door to the Council of Europe is open to other states whose problems are no less numerous than ours.

Commenting on the situation, Hennadiy Udovenko said: "We do not want to be the last state admitted to the Council of Europe. In that case, we do not need the Council."

It seems, however, that this is not so much a matter of no Constitution as the existence of other obstacles that for some reason we are trying to hush up. Among them, lack of conformity of some Ukrainian laws to European ones, in particular, on human rights, the criminal code, problems of relations between the church and the state, and others.

So perhaps we should not pretend that we do not understand what the Council of Europe wants from us.

Regarding the Constitution, the minister of foreign affairs seems to be right....

Udovenko: Council of Europe Accession 'Important Stage'

LD2004200095 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1430 GMT
20 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Strasbourg—Ukraine regards accession to the Council of Europe as an important stage of integration into European structures and, at the same time, a precondition for continuance in the democratic transformation that has been launched, Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadiy Udovenko said in his speech to a meeting of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers.

The foreign affairs minister went on to say that the Council of Europe should also have an interest in expansion to include young European democracies, including Ukraine. He emphasized that the time has come for a favorable settlement of the issue of Ukraine's admission to the Council of Europe.

The minister added that a Council of Europe information and documentation center would soon officially open in Kiev.

In the course of political dialogue, members of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers made recommendations on improvements to the democratic institutions in Ukraine, whose implementation should help Ukraine join the Council of Europe more quickly.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Afghanistan

AU2104101795 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian
20 Apr 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Let Us Be Partners"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Protocol on Establishing Diplomatic Relations Between Ukraine and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has been signed in Moscow. This document, which opens a new stage in the history of bilateral relations, was signed for our state by Ukraine's ambassador to the Russian Federation, V. Fyodorov, and for the Afghan side by Ambassador A. Assefi [name as transliterated]. The Ukrainian diplomat pointed out the advantages of developing mutually advantageous relations with Afghanistan and wished the people of that country peace. For his part, A. Assefi expressed the hope that Ukraine will become Afghanistan's reliable partner in the international arena.

Governmental Team Prepares Economic Agreements With SRV

AU2104085195 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 18 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Ihor Kyzyma: "A Mutually Advantageous Dialogue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Ukrainian delegation, headed by A. Danylenko, Ukraine's deputy minister of

economy, visited the SRV to participate in the first joint meeting of the Intergovernmental Ukrainian-Vietnamese Commission for Issues of Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technological Cooperation. A. Danylenko is the head of the commission.

The meeting discussed questions of Ukraine's participation in building power engineering, transport, and mining facilities in Vietnam and training Vietnamese specialists. In turn, the Vietnamese side expressed readiness to supply rice, caoutchouc, medicines, and so on to our state.

In the course of the meeting, an agreement on scientific and technological cooperation and an agreement on cooperation in the training of personnel were prepared for signing.

Marchuk: Friendship, Cooperation Treaty With Russia Ready

LD2004132195 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1300 GMT 20 Apr 95

[By Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 20 (ITAR-TASS)—“A full-scale friendship and cooperation treaty between Ukraine and Russia is ready to be signed”, acting Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk said at a press conference today. He was summing up the outcome of his working visit to Moscow this week, where he had meetings with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Chairman of the Russian State Duma Ivan Rybkin and other officials.

According to Yevhen Marchuk, with the consent of Russian President Boris Yeltsin a clause has been included in the treaty which “fully satisfies Ukraine”. It concerns following wordings: “The sides honour each other's territorial integrity and reaffirm inviolability of the existing border between them”. Thus all the problems concerning wordings of the extensive Russian-Ukrainian treaty have been resolved, Marchuk said.

Sevastopol Fleet Base 'Core' Problem With Russia

LD2004152195 Kiev *UNIAN in Ukrainian* 1230 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—The issue of fleet basing in Sevastopol is the core of the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, with the Russian side at the talks between military delegations on 19 April having made no concessions with regard to that, Ukraine's Acting Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk told a news conference on 20 April.

He continued: “Russia warned that if no fundamental settlement to this problem was found soon it might revise certain accords with Ukraine of, in particular, an economic and financial nature.” He at the same time denied the existence of any pressure from Russia at the latest round of Russian-Ukrainian negotiations in Moscow.

Asked by a UNIAN correspondent about the possibility of the Ukrainian debt restructuring agreement with Russia being withdrawn, Marchuk said that this would cause problems with international credits both for Ukraine and Russia.

Although Ukraine put forward over 10 various drafts on the Black Sea Fleet, the Russian side proved to be “inflexible” in its insistence on the primary need to solve the fleet problem “in principle,” he said.

A number of draft documents on the division of the Black Sea Fleet land and air forces and the legal status of the fleet's Russian part were, in particular, removed from discussion while the unwillingness of the Russian side to do so resulted in the lack of working agreement so far on the ideology of cooperation between the two fleets of Ukraine and Russia.

Marchuk described the fact that the Black Sea Fleet issue concerned neither the territory nor sovereignty of Russia as the fundamental difference between the two states' approaches to fleet division. The inequality of mutual relations at the talks was that this affected the sovereignty of Ukraine, he said.

With reference to world experience of existing military bases, Marchuk said that Russian proposals on Sevastopol were unacceptable since the civilian population could not reside on their territory. Citing the extraterritoriality of some laws at military bases, he said: “Sevastopol residents cannot be taken hostage of this situation. They can work on the territory of a Russian base but cannot live there.”

Among other issues awaiting settlement, Marchuk named the withdrawal from Sevastopol of the 810th Marine Brigade.

“Accords between Ukraine and Russia on the Black Sea Fleet lack logic and contravene one another,” he added, explaining contractual contradictions by “complications in the relationship between the neighboring states in the past two years.”

He added that the lack of certainty on the Black Sea Fleet did much greater harm to Ukraine than to Russia. Kiev has already made many concessions but “there is, however, the legislative boundary in Ukraine that is to be overstepped by nobody,” he said.

Marchuk on Yeltsin Visit, Black Sea Fleet Dispute

LD2004165395 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1536 GMT 20 Apr 95

[“INTERFAX-UKRAINE” news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 20 (Interfax-Ukraine)—Ukrainian acting Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk said he was sure that all preparations for the

visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Kiev could have been completed by May 9 "if both parties were willing to do so."

He commented at a briefing in Kiev today on statements of several representatives of the Yeltsin's administration that the his visit would fail to take place by May 9.

Marchuk said he proceeded from the belief that Russia and Ukraine had achieved serious progress on some problems concerning the Black Sea Fleet's division by their last meeting on April 18.

Marchuk said that Yeltsin had told him during their meeting that he would not come to Kiev until the Black Sea Fleet issue was resolved. Marchuk said that probably this allowed the Russian officials to announce that the Russian president was very unlikely to visit Kiev before May 9.

Marchuk said the unproductive and uncompromising Russian position inhibited urgent settlement of the Black Sea Fleet problem. He said Ukraine had never disavowed the agreements on the Black Sea Fleet reached in Zavidovo, Yalta and Dagomys.

Marchuk said he regretted that these agreements "lack internal logic." He said the formula on dividing the Black Sea Fleet 50-50, fixed in the Zavidovo agreement, was nothing but a "nice formula which is extremely hard to carry out." He added that some formulae fixed in the agreement contradicted Ukrainian legislation.

Marchuk said the Black Sea Fleet program had two aspects concerning Ukraine's sovereignty without infringing on Russia's sovereignty which, as he put it, "provokes an unequal situation" at the talks.

Marchuk made it clear that he meant the terms for Russia deploying a part of its military facilities on Ukrainian territory and the legal status of the armed forces of a foreign country in Ukraine.

He said Russia must recognize that the Sevastopol problem was not a caprice of the Ukrainian leaders but "a legislative barrier which nobody can overcome." Marchuk said Ukraine would never accept that Sevastopol be a military base for the Russian Black Sea Fleet either de jure or de facto.

Marchuk said Ukraine was ready to give to the Russian fleet places for stationing 512 ships and 71 facilities which "will ensure the fleet's normal functioning."

Marchuk said that the Russian Black Sea Fleet would have about 300 ships after the Black Sea Fleet was divided and the useless military ships were left out.

Marchuk stressed that Russia had made some concessions to Ukraine during the talks on April 18-19. He said he meant the agreement on joint use of the Feodosiya scientific-technical center of the Black Sea Fleet and on withdrawing the 126th coast defense division from Crimea.

Crimea Asks Moscow To Protect Russians

LD2004170695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1627 GMT 20 Apr 95

[By Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol April 20 (ITAR-TASS)—The Crimean parliament requested the Russian president and the State Duma on Thursday to "adopt measures, according to their international commitments, protecting the rights of compatriots living on the territory of the Crimea and representing a national minority in Ukraine".

The legislature also requested the Ukrainian president and parliament to cancel their decisions which actually eliminated the presidency in the Crimea and transferred the government of the peninsula under the direct control of the Ukrainian head of state.

The Crimean legislature said the Kiev decisions violate international norms and law.

Marchuk Warns European MP's Against Interference in Crimea

LD2004203195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1750 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—The situation in Crimea will normalize, provided there is no unilateral interference by a third party in the settlement of the conflict between Kiev and Simferopol, Yevhen Marchuk, Ukraine's acting prime minister, told a meeting with European Parliament members today.

At the request of parliamentarians, Yevhen Marchuk spoke in detail about relations between Ukraine and the Crimean republic and the state of affairs on the peninsula.

"The problem of Crimea is a Ukrainian one and we can resolve it better than our neighbors," Yevhen Marchuk said.

As for relations with the Russian Federation, he said that, "except for the statement by Andrey Kozyrev, they are developing normally."

Yevhen Marchuk told the European Parliament representatives that "they could rest assured" that civil accord, human rights, and parliamentarianism will be observed in Ukraine.

He further expressed the hope that the European Union will provide Ukraine with 85 million Ecu to cover the balance of payments deficit (which decision was made in December of last year) and will help reform Ukraine's energy industry.

Crimea's Tsekov Defends Kozyrev Use of Force Statement

LD2104102395 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—Many countries do not observe the Russians' rights, which is why [Russian

Foreign Minister] Andrey Kozyrev's statement is quite justifiable, Crimean Parliament Speaker Serhiy Tsekov said in an interview with UNIAN on 21 April. "Russia has done everything possible for a civilized separation in the hope that the rights of its compatriots in other countries will be observed," Serhiy Tsekov said in a comment on the Russian foreign minister's suggestion that force could be used to protect Russians resident in other CIS countries.

Minister Voices Concern Over Physical Security of Chernobyl

LD2004185195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1750 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—At a meeting with U.S. State Department officials, Yuriy Kostenko, Ukraine's environment and nuclear safety minister, has voiced concern at the condition of the underground structure of the sarcophagus over the Chernobyl nuclear power plant's reactor No. 4, and the danger of radioactive contamination in under-the-surface water in Ukraine, the press center at the Ministry of Environment and Nuclear Safety of Ukraine informed UNIAN today.

The meeting looked at proposals to open near Chernobyl an international center for the elimination of the aftermath of nuclear accidents and analyzed a wide range of problems associated with the future closure of Chernobyl and ensuring its nuclear and radiational safety.

The U.S. side confirmed that the nuclear safety of Chernobyl was a matter of priority.

It is expected that the time-scale and volume of work planned to shut down the Chernobyl nuclear power plant will be finalized ahead of a meeting between Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and U.S. President Bill Clinton on 11 May.

Chernobyl Operation To Continue Unless West Pays

AU2004200395 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 19 Apr 95 p 4

[Report by Valeriy Druzhenko: "Chernobyl Is a Problem for the West. Let It Show Generosity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Serhiy Parashyn, director of the Chernobyl Atomic Electric Power Plant [AES], Ukraine has no problem with the Chernobyl AES. The problem exists in the West. If they want the plant shut down, this may be done in a very simple way—simply divide Ukraine's losses among participants in the process. These include 15 countries of the European Union, three G-7 countries that are not members of the European Union, and Ukraine. The states only need to pay \$200 million each, and this price is not very high for an advanced country that would like to solve an enormous task and rid its own people from worries.

It appears that the West will, after all, have to loosen its purse strings. Despite the fact that, over the last nine years, more than \$300 million has been invested to strengthen the plant's safety and a new fast-response emergency protection for the reactor has been introduced, the West insists on closing down the Chernobyl AES. This is due to the opinion that has prevailed since the time of the Chernobyl accident—the plant is dangerous. It is practically impossible to change this conviction.

Specialists believe that, by shutting down the Chernobyl plant, Ukraine will lose \$4.4 billion over 16 years—the time of possible use of the facility prior to and after its reconstruction. Residents of Slavutych will also remain without work—there are no industrial enterprises in the town. Besides, due to the exodus of specialists who do not see a future for themselves at the plant, the safety at the AES will wane. The International Atomic Energy Agency asserts that the human factor accounts for 60 percent of safety measures. The Chernobyl shutdown will also make mandatory the building of compensating power engineering facilities.

"These problems may be resolved by building a new plant in Slavutych," said Serhiy Parashyn. "At first, we came up with a proposal to build a new AES in the town. The reaction in the West was negative. The building of a new atomic plant will take eight years. They do not want to wait for such a long time. Besides, large capital investments are necessary first to build an AES before cheap atomic energy may be obtained. In the present economic situation, it is better to build a steam-gas plant. The building of such a facility with a capacity of 3 million kilowatt/hours will cost \$2 billion. Of course, the prime cost of electricity will be higher than in the case of electricity generated by the AES."

The variant of building a steam-gas electric plant will partly cancel economic expenditure in Ukraine due to premature stoppage of the AES. It is planned that, as units of a new plant, tentatively called "Slavutych," are commissioned, corresponding Chernobyl AES units will be dismantled.

In the opinion of the AES specialists, this alternative must satisfy the West. If, however, the initiators of closing down Chernobyl do not find it possible to grant funds needed for implementing the idea of putting the Chernobyl AES out of action, the plant will be rebuilt and will continue producing electricity, and will thus hold potential investors under stress until the year 2012.

Ukraine Determined To Close Chernobyl AES by 2000

LD2004210795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1928 GMT 20 Apr 95

[By Andrey Krasnoshchekov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, April 20 (ITAR-TASS)—Ukraine is resolutely determined to ensure a

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complete closure of the Chernobyl nuclear plant before the year 2000, but to achieve this, "we should first find ways for solving a lot of complicated technical, social and financial problems", Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko told reporters in Strasbourg on Thursday.

Among these problems, the minister listed the fate of the sarcophagus built above the damaged reactor, the storage of radioactive waste and employment of Chernobyl personnel after the plant is closed down. "To do all this, as well as to replace the plant's facilities for the adequate facilities of a new thermal power station, we will need a total of 4.5 bln [billion] dollars", he noted.

Earlier in the day, Udovenko had a series of meetings with Council of Europe leaders to discuss, alongside the Chernobyl issue, the possibility of Ukraine joining this organization. The former Soviet republic applied for membership in the Council of Europe in July 1992, and in September 1992 it was granted a special status, which allows it to participate in the council of Europe's parliamentary assembly as an invited party.

"Ukraine is seeking to receive full membership in the council of Europe as soon as possible", the minister said. "It is an independent state, therefore this issue should not be linked to that of Russia joining the organization", he added.

National Affairs

Supreme Council Approves Statement on Crimea

LD2004184195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1710 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—At the evening session of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, which took place behind closed doors and was attended by Crimean deputies who arrived in Kiev today, a statement was approved (by 254 votes in favor) in connection with the situation in the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The statement says that the Supreme Council of Ukraine shows understanding of the desire of a significant part of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea to alienate themselves from the destructive actions by its leadership.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Council of Ukraine declares its support for these deputies' actions aimed at safeguarding legitimacy in the activities of the representative body of the autonomous republic and in drafting a constitution for the autonomous republic and enforceable enactments in line with Ukraine's legislation.

"The activity of the Supreme Council of Crimea and the nature of its leadership's actions following the adoption of the decisions by the Supreme Council of Ukraine of 17 and 24 March on setting in order the legislation that regulates the status of the Autonomous Republic of

Crimea and following the adoption of relevant decisions by the president of Ukraine, proved that this activity is unconstructive. Instead, the leadership of the Supreme Council of Crimea is continuing its propaganda campaign against Ukraine's bodies of state power, aimed at destabilizing the situation on the peninsula," the statement says.

Crimean Legislator on Meeting With Moroz

LD2004134895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 20 Apr 95

[By Viktor Demidenko, Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev April 20 (ITAR-TASS)—"The present Supreme Soviet of the Republic of the Crimea should be preserved," member of the Crimean parliament Vladimir Shchaviev believes. He came here from Simferopol today with a group of people's deputies.

Shchaviev told journalists that agreement had been reached at their meeting with Oleksandr Moroz, speaker of the Ukrainian parliament, that the situation in the Crimea would be discussed today by a plenary meeting of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet behind closed doors. Most probably, a resolution will be adopted which "will not infringe upon the interests of the Crimean parliament."

Crimean Parliament Adopts Resolution on Ukraine's Actions

LD2004211695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1850 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol [no date as received]—Today's plenary sitting of the Crimean Supreme Council session resulted in the adoption of the resolution "On the political and legal situation in Crimea." The resolution's preamble says that from the legal point of view the actions by Ukraine's parliament run counter to the Constitution of Ukraine and therefore have no legal force.

The declarative part of the resolution reads as follows:

"1. To make a proposal to the Supreme Council and the president of Ukraine that they reconsider the decisions that were approved on 17 and 31 March and bring them in line with Ukraine's international obligations and with the principles and norms of the international law.

2. To make a request to the State Duma and the president of the Russian Federation that they take measures, in compliance with their international obligations, to protect the rights of their compatriots who reside on the territory of the Republic of Crimea and who constitute a minority in the Ukrainian state."

Speaking at the sitting, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea Serhiy Tsekov said, in particular, that

"at the next plenary sitting which will most likely begin its work on 25 April we will approve other resolutions as well."

Crimean Parliament on 'Illegal' Actions by Deputies

LD2004220995 Kiev UNIAIR in Ukrainian 1850 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—Out of the 62 deputies present at a Crimean parliament session on 20 April, 51 voted in favor of adopting two statements—one to the Supreme Council of Ukraine and one to the world community. The statement [as received] emphasizes the illegitimacy of the actions by a group of deputies headed by Refat Chubarov. "They believe that they are authorized to speak on behalf of the entire people of Crimea. Their actions and statements are illegal and run counter to the Constitution and legislation of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea; they grossly violate elementary democratic principles and norms of international law and are aimed at aggravating Russian-Ukrainian relations. It is only the people of Crimea who should decide on the fate of the Republic of Crimea," the statement says.

Crimean Splinter Legislature Appeals to Rada

WS2104103195 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0115 GMT 21 Apr 95

["Special to Intelnews" by Oksana Hasiuk and Oleksandr Pilat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev/Simferopol, April 20—The political standoff over the fate of the Crimean parliament continued on Thursday as a group of 28 renegade Crimean deputies visited their Ukrainian big brothers in Kiev and asked that their group be recognized as the peninsula's legislature.

While a closed-door session of the parliament in Kiev gave backing to the effort, what was left of the Crimean parliament in Simferopol denounced it as undemocratic and appealed to Russia for help. The Crimean legislators vowed to barricade themselves in their parliament building until the matter was resolved to their liking.

A resolution adopted by the Crimean parliament requests that "the Ukrainian parliament and president revise (recent) decisions on the Crimean issue and to bring them in compliance with Ukraine's international obligations and norms and principles of international law."

The resolution also asks that the "Russian Duma and president take necessary measures aimed at protection of the rights of their compatriots who currently live in the Republic of Crimea and are a national minority in Ukraine."

Crimean parliament Speaker Sergei Tsekov denounced the session in Kiev and instructed his loyalists "not to leave the session hall."

"Our further steps will depend on the decision made by the Ukrainian parliament," he said.

Currently 61 Crimean parliament deputies are in the Crimean parliament building waiting for the Ukrainian parliament's decision. If the Ukrainian parliament decides to disband the Crimean parliament, Crimean parliament deputies may stay in the parliament building for a long time, thereby repeating the feat of deposed President Yuriy Meshkov, who has been holed up in the building since the Ukrainian parliament abolished his position on March 17.

Meanwhile, in Kiev, the Crimeans who met with the Ukrainian parliament defended their actions and said the crisis could be solved either by Ukraine's outright dissolution of the Crimean parliament or through the recognition of their group—which consists of 42 of its 98 members—as the legitimate legislature of the Autonomous Republic.

They also say that one of the two actions is inevitable because the Ukrainian parliament is set to disband the Crimean legislature in its anger over last week's speech by Tsekov to the Russian Duma in which he denounced Ukraine's treatment of the peninsula and called for the application of economic sanctions.

According to Nadir Yakirov, a member of the Tatar Kurultay faction who was among the delegation, his splinter legislature was already joined by 43 Crimean deputies, and at least an additional seven were considering signing up.

Crimean Parliament Denounces Splinter Delegation

WS2104111795 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0115 GMT 21 Apr 95

[Text of statements issued on 20 April by the Crimean parliament concerning the delegation dispatched to Kiev by a "breakaway assembly" of 42 of its members—"Special to Intelnews"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, April 20—

Statement

On April 20, 1995, in an atmosphere of secrecy, by a special flight without ticket registration, a group of Crimean parliamentary deputies headed by Refat Chubarov, Vasilii Shpilkin and Vladimir Shevyov, representing a minority in the Crimean parliament, flew to Kiev.

These persons name themselves a plenipotentiary delegation of the self-proclaimed and illegitimate so-called parliament of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

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They consider themselves to have powers to speak on behalf of the whole Crimean people.

The Crimean parliament considers that the deputies who have taken this action represent only their own party and narrow group interests.

Their activity and statements are illegal and contradictory to the Ukrainian and Crimean Constitutions and legislation, a gross violation of elementary democratic principles and norms of international law, and are aimed at aggravation of Russian-Ukrainian relations.

We call on Ukrainian parliamentary deputies not to give way to the provocation planned by particular political forces and aimed at seizure of power in the Republic of Crimea, abolition of the existing representative and executive power structures in order to destabilize the situation in Crimea and around it.

The future of the Republic of Crimea should be determined by the Crimean people only.

The parliament of Crimea
Simferopol April 20, 1995
No. 22-1 VS

Statement

To the Parliament of Ukraine

On April 20, 1995, a group of Crimean parliamentary deputies flew to Kiev on their own initiative.

This group is not a delegation of the Crimean parliament and does not express its will and position.

The parliament of Crimea
Simferopol April 20, 1995
No. 23-1 VS

Crimean Tatars Leader on Recent Developments

WS2004104595 Simferopol GOLOS KRYMA in
Russian 7 Apr 95 p 2

["Exclusive" interview with Refat Chubarov, leader of the Crimean Tatar faction in the Crimean Supreme Council, by Sevil Kurshutova; place and date not given: "The Crimean Parliament Is Playing Childish Games"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kurshutova] Two weeks ago you paid a visit to Kiev. What was the goal of this trip?

[Chubarov] On 17 March, the Ukrainian Supreme Council made a number of decisions abrogating certain legislative acts of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, including the Law "On Elections for Deputies to Village, Settlement, Rayon, and City Councils." The goal of our trip was to define when and under what conditions the Crimean local elections would be held.

It must be said that we managed to achieve this goal. An additional norm should be introduced in the Crimean elections, which would make it possible for the Crimean Tatars, Armenians, Bulgarians, Germans, and Greeks,

who were deported from Crimea, to have a mechanism guaranteeing that their representatives will be elected to local authorities.

I would like to discuss the course of a debate on this issue held in the Ukrainian Supreme Council, since, until the last moment, we had not been convinced that a corresponding resolution would be passed at this parliamentary session. We proceeded from the fact that the Ukrainian Supreme Council and its leadership represented by [Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman] Oleksandr Moroz was inclined toward holding elections on 25 June, and only in accordance with Ukrainian law. Everything connected with the Crimean Tatars and other citizens deported from Crimea, in the opinion of Oleksandr Moroz, should have been discussed later, and a decision on this issue should have been made after a certain period of time. When the Ukrainian Supreme Council chairman submitted this issue for consideration, namely in this form, I had to step in, because Volodymyr Klychnikov, deputy chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council, stated in his speech that Crimea was ready to hold the elections according to Ukrainian law, but did not utter a word that large groups of voters composed of deported citizens were to receive their share. I asked for several minutes to deliver my speech in the Ukrainian Supreme Council. Due to support from a considerable part of Ukrainian deputies representing various factions, except for the Communist faction, I was given such an opportunity. Within three minutes, I tried to explain to the deputies that elections held on the principle of making it impossible to elect representatives of deported Crimean Tatars, Armenians, Greeks, Bulgarians, and Germans to local authorities would lead to destabilization. Of course, it was a harsh speech; at the end I did not restrain myself, and I said that we would not have any option but to boycott the elections if this mechanism was not introduced. After my speech, Ukrainian Deputy Leonid Kravchuk came forward with, in my opinion, a very opportune and laconic proposal to adopt a Ukrainian Supreme Council resolution, which would stipulate that the Crimean elections would be held according to Ukrainian law, under the condition that in the near future special amendments to the law will be passed, which would envision proportional representation of the Crimean Tatars and other deported nations in local authorities. I think that Leonid Kravchuk's proposal was a godsend for the entire parliament, since at that time two opposing opinions prevailed in the Ukrainian legislature. The first opinion was that the elections should be postponed until this fall, and the second opinion, represented by Oleksandr Moroz and supported by socialists and some of the communists, was that the elections should be held as soon as possible. Mr. Moroz, to promote his idea, had to put Leonid Kravchuk's proposal to debate. Moreover, he even supported it. Thus, the Crimean local elections will be held on 25 June, and

amendments defining a mechanism guaranteeing proportional representation of citizens deported from Crimea in local authorities should be adopted no later than 10 April.

[Kurshutova] Will the Kurultay faction participate in drafting amendments to the law?

[Chubarov] Nadir Bekirov is currently working in Kiev with Ukrainian Supreme Council permanent commissions, which were charged with drafting this bill. The Crimean Tatar Majlis [National Assembly] proposed that the bill include amendments which would best conform to the aspirations of deported nations. The future will show whether or not we succeed.

[Kurshutova] Perhaps I am incorrect, but I have the impression that the Crimean Supreme Council agreed to holding the local elections according to the Ukrainian law to "kill" the amendments envisioning proportional representation.

[Chubarov] I directly told Mr. Klychnikov that the fact that he did not address the issue of proportional representation in his speech reflected certain Crimean parliamentarians' wish to set the Crimean Tatars against Kiev. The Crimean Supreme Council leadership actually proceeded from the assumption that the possibility of holding local elections according to the Ukrainian law is beneficial for the ideas represented by the "Rossiya" bloc on the one hand, and on the other hand, that it provides hopes that the Crimean Tatars would bitterly oppose Kiev with regard to this issue. In general, Volodymyr Klychnikov agreed with me.

[Kurshutova] Given that the Crimean parliament openly does not want the Crimean Tatars to be represented in local authorities, do you not think that Crimean Supreme Council deputies will attempt to block the Ukrainian parliament's decision?

[Chubarov] No, either the elections will be held in accordance with the Ukrainian law, or they will not be held at all.

[Kurshutova] Your visit was connected with issues concerning the financing of returning Crimean Tatars. Did you make any progress? On 18 March, Deputy to the Crimean Supreme Council Vasyl Shpylkin stated that the Ukrainian Supreme Council Budgetary Commission proposed to earmark 9 trillion karbovantsi [K] for this purpose. Is it really so?

[Chubarov] Yes, the Budgetary Commission actually presented this proposal. However, one can currently speak about only two figures—K1 trillion and K2.5 trillion. The first figure is included in the draft budget presented by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, and the second one is in the version presented by the Ukrainian Supreme Council Budgetary Commission. The Ukrainian parliament passed the president's version in the first reading.

Thanks to certain Ukrainian Supreme Council deputies from Crimea, namely Yu. Kohen and V. Yehudin, we managed to submit our proposals to the Permanent Budgetary Commission before a deadline set by the Ukrainian Supreme Council. We agree with calculations made by the Ukrainian Ministry of Finance, which proceeds from the assumption that, to maintain the program for financing Crimean Tatars at the 1994 level, it is essential to earmark from the budget K7.5 trillion in capital investments and K3 trillion for social and cultural measures. These figures are yet to be substantiated, and everything will finally become known within two or three weeks.

[Kurshutova] Will it be a disaster if the Ukrainian Supreme Council does not meet this proposal half-way and approves the K2.5 trillion?

[Chubarov] While addressing the Ukrainian Supreme Council during the budget debate a week ago, I stated that any figure lower than K5-6 trillion will mean a disaster not only to the Crimean Tatars, but also to the entire Crimea. Moreover, we had a very long conversation with Ukraine's acting Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, and I had the impression that he understands the seriousness of the current situation. Another matter is that the executive authorities, which are currently directly involved in the drafting of the budget—I have in mind primarily the Ministry of Finance—do not realize that this problem must not be neglected. We must explain to all entities that are drafting the Ukrainian budget that this problem is difficult and politically urgent.

[Kurshutova] What do you have in mind when you speak of political urgency?

[Chubarov] I actually do not understand why the Ministry of Finance considers Sevastopol as a region able to destabilize the situation in Crimea, and why it has earmarked K1.3 trillion for the Sevastopol Economic Stabilization Fund, at the same time excluding Crimean Tatars for the same reasons. While between 250,000 and 300,000 people live in Sevastopol, approximately the same number of Crimean Tatars live throughout Crimea, the majority of whom are unsettled, and who have nothing on which to pin their hopes, except for the state. One should not allot money to certain people for political purposes, at the same time denying money to other people who have ended up in a much more difficult situation.

The Crimean Tatars, who are returning to Crimea, and are settling there, will always base their political stance on who allots money for them and how much. However, they will always observe how other people respect their interests and position. The settlement of Crimean Tatars is not a momentary factor. It is a factor which will become the foundation for further relations between Crimea and Ukraine.

[Kurshutova] On 22 March, the Crimean Supreme Council dismissed [Crimean Prime Minister] Anatoliy

Franchuk and [Crimean Deputy Prime Minister] Andriy Senchenko. How do you assess this decision by the Crimean parliament?

[Chubarov] Any actions which may lead to a dead end in politics should be postponed. Since political aspects in relations between Simferopol and Kiev have not yet been settled, the Supreme Council should not have unfolded operations on a "second front." I think that the Crimean parliament's attempts to simultaneously resolve all problems in all areas may lead to failure. Any government's report is a very serious matter, and childish games are completely inappropriate in this regard. In my opinion, the Crimean parliament played childish games in this case. I do not support this action in a situation when Crimea, in the long run, has more complicated problems—those concerning its relations with Kiev.

[Kurshutova] You described the Crimean parliament's actions as "childish games." Are you not afraid that these games may have very lamentable consequences for the Supreme Council?

[Chubarov] I have two children, and I know that if the parents do not like the games my children play, the games always end up with troubles. I think that the "childish games" played by the Crimean parliament may have lamentable consequences.

[Kurshutova] Do you not think that the Ukrainian Supreme Council, by stating that Franchuk's dismissal is a problem of the executive branch, "washed its hands," and that it did that to spite President Kuchma?

[Chubarov] The Ukrainian Supreme Council actually "washed its hands" by commissioning the executive to make decisions based on the general situation in Ukraine. Additionally, the parliament presumed that these decisions, whatever they might be, may later be used in political games. The Ukrainian Supreme Council leadership has plenty of problems concerning its relations with the executive branch. Therefore, this is a game for the interests of Ukraine's legislative and executive branches.

[Kurshutova] Does it mean that Crimea has become hostage to big politics?

[Chubarov] Of course. President Kuchma is in a very delicate situation. Previously, it was Mr. Moroz who was in a very delicate situation.

[Kurshutova] The decisions made by the Ukrainian Supreme Council on 17 March were followed by a statement issued by the Russian State Duma, and later Konstantin Zatulin [chairman of the Russian State Duma Committee for Links With Compatriots and CIS Affairs] accompanied by a group of Russian deputies arrived in Crimea apparently to resolve the Black Sea Fleet problem. Will Russia interfere in developments in Crimea?

[Chubarov] Russia will act in two directions. Official Russia, I have in mind its executive branch, will assess the Crimean situation and Kiev's measures regarding Crimea with great restraint. At the same time, the executive will covertly support the Russian State Duma's reaction. A breakthrough will take place at a certain moment. It will be determined not by developments in Russia or Ukraine, but by the position of the world community.

If I was in the place of Crimean politicians, I would not consider the statements voiced by the State Duma or the Committee for Links With Compatriots and CIS Affairs as Russia's definite stance. All those real and far-fetched controversies will result in signing an agreement between Russia and Ukraine, which will clearly stipulate that Crimea is an integral part of Ukraine. Perhaps there will be some controversy with regard to the status of Sevastopol, but it will be temporary.

[Kurshutova] Do you not link the radicalism demonstrated by Kiev on 17 March with the situation in Chechnya, in which Russia, while restoring "constitutional order," lost its right to meddle in relations between Crimea and Ukraine?

[Chubarov] That is absolutely correct. The Russian executive branch, President Yeltsin, and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin understand this. Russian parliamentarians, however, do not want to proceed from this. I think that Ukraine's executive and legislative branches took their steps at a moment most favorable for Ukraine, in terms of tactics. This is politics.

Kravchuk: 'Executive Power Is Main Problem'
WS2104102995 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0305 GMT 20 Apr 95

["Special to Intelnews" interview with former Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk by Volodymyr Katzman; place and date not given—first paragraph is INTELNEWS introduction]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Former President Leonid Kravchuk recently announced his intention to quit the Center faction in parliament—a small but influential group dominated by government officials. Kravchuk spoke recently to IntelNews correspondent Volodymyr Katzman about his decision to quit the group, about problems in parliament and Ukrainian politics as a whole and about his successor, Leonid Kuchma.

INTELNEWS: The opposition between power branches seems to be reaching its climax. Will it bring about some changes?

KRAVCHUK: Evidently, the crisis has reached its zenith and is waiting for an outcome. At least an outcome is inevitable as far as the power crisis is concerned.

The struggle for power is always the struggle with certain persons. That is why it always bears threatening features.

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During my presidency I appealed to parliament, warning that the presidential elections were not legitimate and were not provided for by the Constitution. I asked the (deputies) to take the side of the law, adopt corresponding legislative norms and then to lead the presidential elections. Nobody then seemed to care about it, so I had to participate in the election. I thought perhaps one post-communist state will manage to change its leader without bloodshed. And we succeeded. Actually, it compensates for the fact that all power structures today are not legitimate and contradict the Constitution.

And what are we offered today? To go on trampling our own laws. Generally, the Power Bill contradicts the Constitution in many of its provisions.

INTELNEWS: Do you think that the adoption of the Power Bill will complicate the adoption of a new constitution?

KRAVCHUK: If the Power Bill is adopted without any changes, I can guarantee the constitution will be postponed for a long period. When the main claims and purposes are reached, there will be no need for the new constitution. It would be like this—parliament is unable to adopt the constitution, there are no funds for a referendum. And, be sure, the mass media could persuade people that the current situation was perfect. "It is all right, folks. Get to work!"

INTELNEWS: Is parliament able to find a way out of this situation?

KRAVCHUK: All proposals failed in parliament. Despite the fact that the proposals were themselves compromises, they served certain groups, so they were subjective. To collect 300 votes is impossible, so another way was chosen. There are deputies who are ready for everything for the sake of this law. But other deputies were correct. Petro Symonenko said even if the Power Bill was adopted, it would not work because it contradicted the Constitution. Any power can be built on the basis of a constitution or on the willingness of people.

The executive power is main problem today. This is the power that should work constantly. And I agree there should be an executive chain of command.

What do we have today? We have the president and his administration. We have the Cabinet of Ministers and its numerous departments. In other words, we have two similar structures that fulfill the same functions. Only the Constitution can change the structure of power. Now, we need to change only the executive power by introducing some amendments to the Constitution. The president himself should be the prime minister and rule local authorities. I am convinced the deputies would vote for it. It is not worth dwelling on the parliament, the courts and prosecutors' offices. The Constitution must dot all its "i's" and cross all its "t's" in these problems with the definition of human rights and with the definition of obligations of all bodies that must ensure these

rights. Unfortunately, we lack this today. For what sake is the struggle for power going on? For the sake of power. And in this the struggle for human rights is thrown away.

When I spoke to parliament about it, I felt my idea would be supported. But the president also should agree with the idea. When Kuchma ran his presidential campaign, he said he would take responsibility for the executive power. People liked it. While now the president and his advisers say it is impossible, emphasizing the president has to fulfill many other obligations.

INTELNEWS: Do you think the presidential structures will continue to avoid taking such responsibility?

KRAVCHUK: I am sure of it. You see, these obligations are a bit different. The notion of the head of the executive power is everything and nothing at the same time. When it reads prime minister, everybody understands what it means, while now it means there is some power but no responsibility. It gives the possibility to shift the blame from one person to another. I paved the way for actions, he may say, but they are unable to realize it. It should be, "if you made the bed you must lie in it."

The issues are most likely to end in referendum because nothing can stop the current ruling structures and their longing to possess more power. I felt it when Kuchma was the prime minister. It is his belief. The tension will grow. Then either forcible measures or a referendum will be used.

I am also for a referendum, but only if there is no way out, because I am not sure it will bring any good to Ukraine. In the current situation, a referendum may lead to extreme politicization of the regions and population. It is not the right time to share power when enterprises stand idle, mines are closing, there is unemployment and wages cannot catch up with inflation.

It would be better to create an executive chain of command and continue to work out the Constitution.

INTELNEWS: You often said the viewpoint of the Center faction was close to your viewpoints. Why did you decide to quit?

KRAVCHUK: I was not a full member of the Center. I participated in its sittings but did not officially apply for membership. I simply observed its activity, so I did not contribute to the positions set by (faction leader Anton) Buteiko.

And I have recently stopped participating in its meetings. After many independent deputies left the faction it became small, though it still works out interesting proposals. Frankly speaking, there exists some pressure in a certain direction. I felt a mentality of the old-party system with its superiority complex. I think it is because there are many leaders in the faction—some from the Cabinet of Ministers, some from the presidential structures.

INTELNEWS: Does it mean that Leonid Kravchuk is an independent deputy?

KRAVCHUK: I do not belong to any group or faction. At first, I really wanted to join the Center faction. When I was president, I did not rush about from one side to another. And today in my constituency I clearly explain my attitudes whether toward the leftists or the rightists or the communists. As for the group of independents, I observe them attentively. But I feel like being an independent deputy. My guide is my centrist position, observance of the laws and the Constitution.

Further Details on Supreme Council Debate on Power Bill

WS2004114595 Lvov INFOBANK in English 1011
GMT 20 Apr 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On April 19, during the meeting of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, the article-by-article examination of the draft law on state power and local administration was carried on. Five of seven positions of Article 27 were returned back for re-work. Among the rejected positions were the following: the declaration of the conditions of war by the President; the declaration of the complete or partial mobilization; introduction of the military state on the territory of the whole country or in separate regions of Ukraine.

During the examination of Part 4—"Government of Ukraine—Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine," the Coordinative Commission was offered to re-work Articles 32 and 33 which determined the statutes of the government. The members of parliament adopted the legislative norms of Part 5 "Justice Power" without any substantial alterations. In Part 6—"General Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine"—the position concerning accountability of the General Prosecutor to the President of Ukraine was altered. The members of parliament decided that the General Prosecutor would be accountable to the Supreme Council of Ukraine. Such Parts as "Local Bodies of the State and Executive Power" and "Local Administration in Ukraine" were sent for re-work too.

The Supreme Council of Ukraine adopted a decision, in accordance with which the Coordinative Commission has to prepare a draft law on power before the repeated second examination. According to the decision, if the Articles and positions, sent for re-work, do not contradict the existing and acting Constitution, the Coordinative Commission will prepare them in edition, which is to be formulated in accordance with Constitution.

Power Bill Debate Postponed Until Early May

WS2004150695 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0305
GMT 20 Apr 95

["Special to Intelnews" by Oksana Hasiuk and Svetlana Seliutina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 19—Prospects for a speedy resolution to the Power Bill debate in parliament dimmed Wednesday as the Rada decided to hold a "repeat second reading" of the measure in early May.

Parliament also decided to return all articles which had not received its consent back to the Conciliatory Committee for rewriting. These include key sections giving the president the right to dissolve parliament and appoint the prime minister and other key government officials without parliamentary approval.

The leftist majority in parliament also balked at provisions which would abolish regional oblast elected governments.

"We cannot agree with a role of local councils as an appendix to the presidential administration," said Oleksandr Stashenko, the head of the committee on local government whose unscheduled speech at the start of the Power Bill debate last week prompted President Leonid Kuchma to storm out of the session.

Meanwhile, presidential officials are offering a bleak assessment of the outlook for the bill's passage by parliament.

"We all were the witnesses of the obvious manipulation by the debate procedure and brilliant neglecting of this procedure by (parliament) Speaker (Oleksandr Moroz)," presidential Chief of Staff Dmytro Tabachnyk said on Wednesday.

"Current debate in the parliament over the Power Bill confirms once again that constructivism hasn't yet become a predominant political trend of Ukrainian parliamentary mentality," he added.

Not all in parliament share the opinion.

Conciliatory Committee Chairman Vasyl Durnets, a key Kuchma ally, told journalists on Wednesday that his committee would do everything possible to iron out a bill. "I think good sense will prevail over emotions, and the bill will be approved," he said.

Economic Issues

Statistics Ministry Data on Trade Balance in Jan, Feb 95

WS2004114695 Lvov INFOBANK in English 1011
GMT 20 Apr 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The City Telerate Information Agency, citing the Ukrainian Ministry of Statistics, disseminated information that Ukrainian exports comprised US\$1,120.7 million during January and February 1995. During the same period Ukraine imported goods totaling US\$1,471.3 million. The foreign trade deficit of

US\$350.6 million accumulated mainly because of massive imports of gas, oil and petroleum products. Ukrainian enterprises have established trade contacts with partners in 104 nations.

Ukrainian exports to Russia comprised 38 percent of its total exports; to the USA—6 percent; to China—5 percent; to Germany—4 percent; and to Belarus and Turkmenistan—3 percent each. The bulk of Ukrainian imports came from Russia—49 percent of total imports; from Ireland—16 percent; Turkmenistan—9 percent; Germany—4 percent; and from Poland and Belarus—2 percent each.

Ukraine has not generated a negative trade balance with any partner outside of the CIS states (US\$380.4 million for the CIS as whole). Moreover, this deficit was caused mainly by energy supplies from Russia (US\$300.2 million) and Turkmenistan (US\$29.8 million). Regarding trade with other nations, Ukraine generated a surplus of US\$29.8 million. The share of countertrade contracts in Ukrainian exports to other CIS states amounted to 40 percent, and the corresponding figure for imports was 14.6 percent. However, the share of similar deals with other (non-CIS) nations appeared to be more balanced and amounted to 27.7 percent and 23.6 percent for exports and imports respectively.

Parliament Approves Minimum Wage Measure Effective 1 May

WS2104103295 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0115 GMT 21 Apr 95

[“Special to Intelnews” by Oksana Hasiuk]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 20—Parliament on Thursday decided to put into effect as of May 1 a measure which will set Ukraine’s new minimum wage based upon the results of ongoing negotiations between the government, unions and businesses.

Although nobody argued for continuation of the current minimum wage, the world’s lowest at 60,000 karbovantsi [K] (about 40 cents) per month, Ukraine’s politicians and labor leaders differ considerably over just how much the new figure should be.

While the Cabinet of Ministers had proposed a formula in which the monthly wage should equal at least K1.73 million for each family member in a household, parliament’s Social Protection Committee proposed to link the figure to the K3.865 million poverty level determined by the Health Ministry. The ministry had based this figure on the composite cost of its basket of 22 essential food items.

The Rada, however, balked at the cost of this formula, which would raise wages and pensions that throughout the state sector are based upon multiples of the minimum wage, and decided instead to await the outcome of the current round of wage and tariff negotiations and apply the result retroactively to May 1.

“We do not have the money in the approved 1995 state budget to provide such a poverty level,” Deputy Prime Minister Ihor Mitiukov told parliament.

Socialist Ivan Chyzh disagreed, saying that “if we do not set the poverty level proposed by the Social Protection Committee, we will be committing genocide upon the Ukrainian people.”

Belarus

Lukashenka To Head Delegation to Moscow V-Day Celebrations

WS2004142195 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 19 Apr 95 p 1

[Report attributed to BELINFORM: "To Celebrate Victory Day in Moscow"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka will head the official delegation of our country, which will participate in Moscow celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War. The delegation was invited by the Government of the Russian Federation.

A BELINFORM correspondent has learned that the delegation will include Presidential Administration Chief Leanid Sinitsyn, Defense Minister Anatol Kashtenka, First Deputy Foreign Minister Valery Tsepkala, and other accompanying officials.

Independent Trade Unions Begin Picketing Government

WS2004145895 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1400 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On 20 April, the Association of the Independent Industrial Trade Unions of Belarus started picketing the House of Government. The day before, the picketers' demands were handed in written form to Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir at the roundtable with the participation of the government, trade unions, and associations of employers. Some time earlier, the demands of the Independent Trade Unions were sent to President Alyaksandr Lukashenka. The basic demands are the following: to grant the status of an immediate payment to the payment of wages; to launch a monetary and credit policy stimulating production and exports; to repeal the VAT on exports; to give enterprises the right to sell products of poor demand for prices close to production costs; to increase the share of resources for immediate needs in state subsidies up to 25 percent. As it was reported, the picketing was to take place from 18 to 30 April, but the Independent Trade Unions decided to put off the action in view of the trilateral roundtable. The lack of any reaction from the government to the trade unions' demands forced the trade unions to resort to picketing.

Moldova

Snegur Signs Treaty With Hungary, Concludes Budapest Visit

AU2004200795 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1856 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, INFOTAG, 20/4/1995—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur accomplished his official two-day visit to Hungary on

Thursday. The sides signed the framework bilateral Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation, Agreements on reciprocal promotion of investment, on avoidance of double taxation, and some other essential documents.

Moldova has signed similar framework treaties with Russia, the Ukraine, China, Bulgaria, Poland, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Lithuania. As for such treaty with Romania, preparatory work is still under way. The situation when Moldova has friendship and cooperation accords with all neighbors except Romania, with whom Chisinau claims to have "special relations," looks fairly strange but is quite explicable.

Moldovan diplomats, who were involved in the preparatory work at various stages, were unanimous in pointing out that Bucharest believes the Romanian-Moldovan Treaty cannot be similar to treaties signed with all other countries.

The earliest drafts, which were elaborated in the era of Prime Minister Mircea Druc and Parliament Chairman Alexandru Mosanu, and which President Snegur refused to sign, were called by diplomats "The treaty on peaceful and gradual adjoining Moldova to Romania". Moldova insists that the treaty text should reflect the status of the two countries as absolutely equal-right subjects of international law.

Against such a background, the official visit to Budapest of the Moldovan leader looks like a challenge to Romania, which has a fairly strained relationship with Hungary. Romanian politicians gave their own interpretation also to the fact that some time ago a delegation of the Union of Romanian Hungarians visited Moldova on the invitation of the ruling Agrarian Democratic Party, as well as to one more fact: till now, President Snegur has not paid a single official visit to Bucharest.

Ministry Deplores 'Interference' by Russian Duma Deputies

AU2004202395 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 18 Apr 95 p 6

[Report by Svitlana Chala, HOLOS UKRAYINY correspondent, from Chisinau: "In Whose Interests"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement in connection with the Russian Federation State Duma intention to hold hearings on the 14th Army and the results of the referendum conducted in the Dniester region and considered as illegal by Chisinau.

As is known, the majority of the Dniester region population voiced objection to the withdrawal of the army from the territory. During the referendum in Tiraspol, State Duma deputies, representing three factions, were there: Agrarians, Communists, and Liberal Democrats [Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's party]. They convened a news conference where they promised that they would ask the Duma not to ratify the accord, signed at the level of

Russian and Moldovan prime ministers and envisaging withdrawal of the 14th Army from Moldova within three years. The Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs immediately responded with a note in which it qualified the actions by a number of State Duma deputies as interference into the internal affairs of Moldova and expressed a hope that the Federation Council would make a correct assessment.

During his recent visit, Vladimir Shumeyko, head of the Federation Council, pointed out that the deputies had visited Tiraspol as private persons and that their position in no way coincides with Moscow's official position. He also promised that the withdrawal of the army's weapons would start immediately since they present "a threat of emergence of separatist wars." Besides, according to him, just 85 persons serving in the 14th Army had arrived from Russia, while the remaining 6,500 are Moldovan citizens and residents. With that statement, he caused an uproar in the army. In view of the fact that 10,000 servicemen and members of their families, reads the statement of protest, are Russian citizens, V. Shumeyko's words offer a chance for the servicemen to become convinced yet again that Russian politicians are guided by interests that involve weapons rather than by the interests of their citizens.

In its new statement, the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs once again reminded Moscow that it is inadmissible to interfere into the affairs of other states and that obligations to fulfill the signed accord on withdrawing the 14th Army that was mediated by the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] and the Council of Europe must be adhered to.

Official Claims Ethnic Russians' Rights 'Violated'

AU2104090295 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2050 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 19/4/1995—Igor Vasiliev, co-chairman of the Moldovan Russian Community, considers that Russian ethnics' rights "are violated in many cases." Vasiliev told BASA that "it is a gross violation" of Russian ethnics' rights the fact that "the number of Russian schools and Russian groups at higher educational institutions has been reduced, most Russians being fired on grounds that they do not know the official language." According to Vasiliev, this is also true about other ethnics most of whom speak Russian. Russian ethnics' rights are also violated because Chisinau officials do not accept double citizenship. As a consequence, "most Russians had to adopt Moldovan citizenship to take out their vouchers in order to privatize their flats and now they cannot adopt Russian citizenship," said Vasiliev. Zinaida Ocunshi, head of the Ethnic Relations Department, told BASA that no violations of Russian ethnics' rights has been registered. "Certain Russian national-cultural leaders try to compare Russian ethnics' social situation of today with that of 1991, which are absolutely incomparable," mentioned Ocunshi. At a press conference during his

visit to Chisinau, Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Parliament Higher Chamber, stated that Russians are not discriminated in Moldova. Statistics show that in Chisinau Moldovans account for 54 percent, Ukrainians 23 percent and Russians 21 percent. At the same time, Romanian schools have a capacity of 55,767 places, whereas schools with teaching in Russian or other languages have more than 46,000 places.

Parliament Rejects Proposals To Modify Local Elections Law

AU2104090195 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2050 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 19/4/1995—Moldovan Parliament today rejected Socialist Unity faction's proposal to modify the local elections law. Deputy Mihail Sidorov demanded on the behalf of the Socialist Unity that the law be modified. He proposed that the repeated elections be validated if one third of the electorate shows up. "If absenteeism will be again high we suggest the president appoint an executive organ for six months and afterward the elections be held again," said Sidorov. The current laws do not limit in time the executive organs appointed by the president in case of invalidated elections. Deputy Pjotr Shornikov said that if the elections are held as stipulated by the current laws there will be "enormous unjustifiable expenses." "As a result, in the localities where repeated elections will not be validated there will be no representative organs, while the committees appointed by the Moldovan president will be a source of tensions," noted Shornikov. Eugen Rusu, head of the Parliamentary Juridical Commission for appointments and immunity, called this proposal illegal as "the law cannot be modified during the elections." Anatol Popusoi, one of the PDAM [Democratic Agrarian Party], said that if modifications are made the social equity principle will be violated since the elections in other localities were validated by other criteria. Vasile Pescari, Central Electoral Commission (CEC) chairman, stated that "the final date for repeated elections is set by the local electoral commissions, but it is clear that it will be held on Sunday, April 30."

Socialists Criticize Refusal To Change Election Law

AU2104102695 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2120 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 20/4/1995—The Socialist Unity parliamentary faction deemed ruling party's refusal to change the local elections law (reduce electoral threshold to 30 percent) as a coalition with the opposition to create suitable conditions for both sides. This statement was made by Socialist Unity leaders at a press conference today. Deputy Valeriu Senic said that in Chisinau there are forces interested to fail the second round of elections. Pjotr Shornikov said that those interested in this failure

can be easily seen since "27 percent of all enterprises to be privatized are situated in Chisinau, and those who share out assets never forget about themselves." Senic gave as reasons for communists' success "hunger, poverty and people's distrust in the current leadership" and "the nostalgia for a relatively provided life during communists' domination." Senic said the Socialist Unity will do its best to form a bloc with the communists. Referring to the modifications to the elections law, Senic said that "where there is the procedure of appointment there is always a dictatorial element. The executive organs which will be appointed by the President will not be representative," said Senic. The socialist leaders specified that two thirds of the Socialist Unity faction did not vote for the local elections law. Socialist Mikhail Sidorov, member of the Parliamentary Commission for National Minorities' Problems, called the results of the elections "a vote of non-confidence for the Parliament, Moldovan Parliament and Government." Commenting on President Snegur's legislative initiative to revise constitutional Article 13, Senic said that the FPCD [Christian Democratic Popular Front] did not manage to collect 200,000 signatures to revise the Constitution, and therefore "it is not clear whose interests the president will represent."

Smirnov: Dniester Forces 'Capable of Repelling Aggression'

AU2104084695 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2050 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, BASAPRESS, 19/4/1995—The negotiation process between Dniester and Moldova was frozen two months ago, Igor Smirnov, leader of the self-proclaimed Moldovan Dniester Republic, told BASA. "I suppose the events in Chechnya and Crimea, as well as Moldovan officials' intense contacts with the international community and President Snegur's recent visit to the United States, influenced this state of things," said Smirnov. He admitted that these factors might have influenced Chisinau officials to stop the dialogue with Tiraspol. "Chisinau perhaps hopes to use again what was called 'restoration of constitutional order,' but I don't think that force will be applied again," said Smirnov. "We are often asked: Are we afraid or not of Moldova's admittance into the Council of Europe? We would be glad if this will happen, but at the same time we are afraid that this might determine Moldova to use force and we have all reasons to think so," mentioned the Dniester leader. In this context, Smirnov referred to Moldova's admittance into the United Nations in 1992 that happened simultaneously with the beginning of the Dniester conflict. "It is true it was another context they were aiming at USSR's decomposition, yet not one should forget about human rights and that application of force is inadmissible," said Smirnov. On the other hand, Moldova's entrance in the Council of Europe will open new economic opportunities which is welcomed by Tiraspol, mentioned Smirnov adding that he is "always ready to meet with President Snegur" for

negotiations. The last Snegur-Smirnov meeting was held on February 15. Another meeting scheduled for March 15 was postponed. The day for the new meeting is not known yet. Asked to comment on the situation surrounding the 14th Army, Smirnov said: "We always take into account that it has been stationed in Dniester for 200 years and has become part of our people" and all problems regarding the 14th Army should be solved "only by Dniestr and Russia." In his opinion, a confrontation between Moscow and Tiraspol is unlikely. The Russian troops withdrawal might affect the balance of forces in the region, said Smirnov, adding that "the Dniestrian Armed Forces are capable of repelling by themselves, without the 14th Army's support, any aggression from Moldova."

Experts Draft Law on Special Status for Dniester Region

AU2104085995 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2120 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 20/4/1995—The Dniester autonomous region will comprise localities situation on the left bank of the Dniester whose over 50 percent of inhabitants will pronounce themselves for joining the Dniester autonomous region during local referendums, according to the "Law on Special Status for Dniester Region." The draft status was presented by Chisinau experts to the Tiraspol side and was distributed by Dniester officials at the recent experts' meeting held in Tiraspol. According to the draft, Chisinau will be responsible for foreign policy, defense, national security, protection of borders, customs policy, citizenship, functioning of justice, interior and prosecutor bodies and organization of financial, fiscal and banking policies. "Moldova is an integral subject of international right" and has a single citizenship. The Dniester region should have control over local and regional administrative organs, regional financial and fiscal activity, municipal police (militia), organization of industry, constructions, agriculture and social insurance. The supreme legislative organ of the autonomous region should be the Legislative Assembly (Regional Council) which will adopt regional laws and other by-laws that will be declared void if they contradict Moldovan Constitution. The person vested with supreme power is the head of administration elected by all Dniester inhabitants; he will have the function of Moldovan vice premier. "All military units located in Dniester are integral part of Moldovan Armed Forces. The commanders are named by the Moldovan defense minister with the consent of the regional administration," according to the draft. The regional security service will be also subordinated under the Moldovan central organs. The head of the regional interior organs will be named by the Moldovan interior minister at regional administration's recommendations. At the same time, municipal police (militia) chiefs are named by local administrations at the recommendation of the head of regional interior organs, stipulates the draft drawn up by Chisinau experts.

Minister Says Oil Terminal Project 'of Vital Importance'

AU2004114795 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1907
GMT 18 Apr 95

["Economic commentary" by BASAPRESS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 18/4/1995—The construction of the Giurgiulesti [oil] terminal [on the Danube River] is regarded by Chisinau officials as "a project of vital importance to the country's future." Making this statement, Economy Minister Valeriu Bobutac said that Moldova imports 98 percent of all its energy resources from Russia and Ukraine. Russia has reduced oil extractions from 600 million to 290 million metric tons. In that case, Moldova's dependence on a single energy source imperils its sovereignty. The project of the terminal, included in the activity program of the previous cabinet ministers headed by the same [current Prime Minister] Andrei Sangheli, is approaching its realization phase. "Construction works might be started in the second half of 1995," relayed governmental sources. The delays were caused by lack of investments and viable projects as well as by hope that Russia's extracting potential is far from being exhausted. The Giurgiulesti port will represent in fact Moldova's openness to the world fuel market, stated the economy minister. Bobutac mentioned that oil products from the West will be imported through the port after their refining in Romania and Ukraine. He also said that the

works will start this year, but "everything depends on experts and negotiations" with potential investors and contract executors. Clearly, authorities take a special interest in the opening of the port on the Danube. During the 6-10 April visit to Athens by a Moldovan governmental delegation headed by Vice Premier Valeriu Bulgari, it was agreed to set up a Moldovan-Greek company called Terminal. It will be the one to perform the constructions of the Giurgiulesti port, which will have an annual capacity of 2.1 million metric tons of oil products. During the same period, another official delegation headed by National Bank Governor Leonid Talmaci conducted negotiations in London with the European Bank for Development and Reconstruction [EBRD] Board of Directors for a credit to finance the constructions. Talmaci stated that the sum of investments made by the EBRD will cover 30 percent of all expenditures. Other investments will be covered from other sources whose financial support will be requested by the EBRD. Earlier, Moldovan media relayed that the EBRD will grant Moldova a \$40 million credit to build the port. Meanwhile, Chisinau officials negotiate on oil imports from Kuwait and Iran. In May a new imports contract for 1.5 million metric tons of fuel will be signed with Iran, following the earlier agreement which was signed for 2 million metric tons of oil. According to the draft program for energy supply, the Giurgiulesti terminal will be finished by 1997. However, experts do not rule out the possibility of difficulties, both technical and financial, that might protract the fulfillment of the project.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Sends Condolences to Clinton on Oklahoma Tragedy

LD2104110395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1046 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Almaty, 21 Apr—Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev has expressed sincere condolences to U.S. President Bill Clinton in connection with the tragedy in Oklahoma. He described this terrorist act, which killed dozens of people, as "a senseless act of banditry."

"Kazakhstan condemns terrorism in all its forms and considers it important for the global fight against this contemporary evil to be stepped up and for the efforts of states and international organizations and the entire world community to be united," the telegram sent from President Nazarbayev to Clinton says.

Troops Begin Destroying ICBM Silos in Kazakhstan

MM2004092395 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Anatoliy Ladin: "Intercontinental Ballistic Weapons Eliminated"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with the START I Treaty specialists from the Center for the Implementation of the Treaty and the "Derzhavinsk" ICBM base have begun eliminating ICBM launch silos in Kazakhstan by the explosion method. All the launchers in the position area of one disbanded Strategic Rocket Forces missile regiments will have been destroyed by 28 April.

There will be a crater at least six meters deep at the site of a former ICBM silo. As envisaged by the START I Treaty, it will be covered by a multitonne protective casing.

Nazarbayev: Russian 'Electoral Rhetoric' Should Be Ignored

LD2104105495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1040 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, April 21 (Interfax)—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev believes that his country's citizens should ignore the electoral rhetoric used by Russian politicians.

A source in his entourage told Interfax that Nazarbayev had said so in a talk with local journalists on April 20.

Nazarbayev is reported as saying that strong-worded statements reflect the political expediency more than the actual sentiments of the Russian people.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told the Foreign Policy Council which discussed the situation with ethnic Russians in the CIS and Baltic countries in Moscow on April 18 that one country's nationals abroad could be protected in numerous ways ranging from expression of mild dissatisfaction by an anonymous Foreign Ministry officials to political and economic sanctions. He listed direct use of force in certain cases among the tools that can be used for that purpose.

Poll: Majority Support Extension of Nazarbayev's Powers

LD2104103995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1015 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By Vladimir Akimov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty, April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—About 56.5 per cent of respondents in a public opinion poll, held in ten Kazakh major regions and centers by the Almaty based Giller Institute, have come out for the extension of the term in office by the Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev until the year 2000. The voting on whether Nazarbayev should continue his term in office as the Kazakh president will be held during a nationwide referendum due in Kazakhstan on April 29.

About 40 per cent of respondents in the public opinion poll are convinced that to ensure further stability in the country the presidential elections should be held at the time envisaged by the Constitution—in December next year.

The public opinion poll was held among 1,100 urban residents. Experts believe that during the referendum a bigger per cent of the population will come out for the extension of Nazarbayev's powers, since in Kazakh rural areas a tradition of unquestionable support of power remains fairly strong.

Nazarbayev Meets Russian Public TV Director Blagovolin

LD2004182095 Almaty Kazakh Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today a meeting took place between Sergey Blagovolin, director general of Russian Public Television, and republican leaders.

[Unidentified correspondent] The need for a single information zone, the creation of genuine public television oriented toward today's needs, and the vast responsibility which the electronic media bear toward time and society—these questions were discussed during Russian Public Television head Blagovolin's meetings with Kazakh Prime Minister Qazhygeldin and then with President Nazarbayev.

It was decided to draft a long-term agreement between Russia and Kazakhstan defining the forms and ways for a single television zone to exist.

[Begin recording] [Blagovolin] We want to become a force which will work for rapprochement and consolidation. We simply cannot see anything that equals the importance of this aim or task.

[Nazarbayev] Russian Public Television, as it is now, or Ostankino, is of great significance in terms of information. It has to be said that Kazakhstan cannot lose such an information field as Ostankino television. This channel carries a great deal of information to our people. And my Russian-speaking citizens are very interested in this.

That is why my desire now, at this difficult time of transition, is that television, which is the most influential medium, should bring our people closer together. [end recording]

Nazarbayev Ratifies Economic Agreements With CIS States

LD2104105795 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1036 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev, using additional powers granted to him, signed on Friday the decrees on the ratification of a number of bilateral intergovernmental agreements with Ukraine, with other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and with Estonia. Two agreements between the Governments of Kazakhstan and Russia were ratified. One of them is the agreement on frontier regions of the two countries signed in Omsk on January 26, 1995. The second agreement is about interaction in the maintenance of mainline oil product pipelines, signed in Moscow on January 20, 1995.

Under the Omsk agreement the parties will ensure interaction in the solution of specific tasks aimed at removing obstacles to goods transportation. They will ensure services at the expense of local resources within the border regions and used for their needs.

The agreement on the maintenance of oil product pipelines will be of mutual advantage. It will clear a multitude of problems during the transportation of products from one country to the other and will make it possible to slash costs.

Economic Figures for First Quarter 1995

LD2004094495 Almaty *PANORAMA in Russian* 15 Apr 95 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] Report from the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Macroeconomic Indicators

Previous months' major trends in the socioeconomic development of the republic continued, and in some areas intensified, in March 1995. The rates of decline in the gross domestic product [GDP], which is a depiction

of the value of goods produced in all economic commodity and service sectors, slowed down. In January and December 1994, GDP declined by 25.4 percent; in January this year it fell 18.8 percent; in February it fell by 15.8 percent; but in March there was four percent growth. The volume of industrial production increased considerably in March against January and February this year (by 6.7 percent and 5.6 percent respectively).

Investments in the main funds are increasing. Whereas capital investments comprised 61.1 percent in January 1995 and 62.5 percent in January-February, in January-March it was 83.4 percent.

The trend for agricultural production to fall intensified in comparison with previous years. The volume of gross production in January 1994 showed a 13 percent drop on the January 1993 figure, whereas in January 1995 it was 25 percent down on 1994. The January-February figures are 18.9 percent and 26.4 percent and for January-March they are 21 percent and 22 percent, respectively.

The stabilization measures being conducted in the republic combined with a moderately tough finance and credit policy; the decline of the purchasing capability of the tenge; and the still existing mechanism for influencing pricing, via the level of profitability of the main industrial sectors, stimulated a deceleration in growth rate in the general inflation level (from a monthly average of 147 percent for the October-December 1994 period to 6.9 percent in the January-March 1995 period).

In January-February this year there was a growth (of 5.3 percent) in real disposable personal income against the corresponding period last year, but against December 1994 there was a decrease of 8.1 percent and 24.9 percent. [sentence as received]

The trend is still toward growth in unemployment. The employment department of the republic's Labor Ministry registered 74,400 unemployed at the beginning of February, 82,200 in March, and 85,700 in April.

Industry In January-March 1995

Industrial enterprises in the republic turned out products (work, services) worth 151.7 billion tenge at current prices. Compared with the first quarter of 1994 there was an increase in production in ferrous and non-ferrous metals and the chemical and petrochemical industries. The fuel and energy industrial sectors developed unevenly. A trend for output to increase was observed in the electricity industry. Last year's level of electricity production was exceeded by two percent in the first quarter.

In the oil industry, extraction fell by about 10 percent. Major accidents at substations and electricity power line breaks are constantly happening at almost 3,000 oil wells in the republic, and oil pipes are increasingly rupturing because of corrosion and the shortage of pipes.

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The decline in the manufacture of refined oil products has become steeper since the beginning of the year. In the first quarter 2.1 million tonnes of oil was refined, or slightly more than half of the amount extracted. The Pavlodar oil refinery halted production from January onwards because of the lack of Tyumen oil.

Enterprises in the coal industry somewhat improved their performance in March, but over the three months the volume of coal extraction fell by 12 per cent.

In January-March production of the majority of the most important types of output in the engineering industry fell due to an acute shortage of liquid assets and falling demand from solvent consumers. Output of metal-cutting machine tools, automation devices and systems and spare parts for them, forging and pressing machinery and chemical equipment decreased.

However, a number of enterprises are increasing production of some kinds of output. Output of metal-working tools, metal-rolling equipment, pipe fittings, gate valves, locks, trolley-buses, tractor trailers, and tractors increased. Industrial enterprises in the republic produced consumer goods worth 22 billion tenge, just over half last year's volume.

Lengthy stoppages at enterprises and production plants continue to affect industrial performance.

A total of 68 enterprises halted production entirely in March, and for this reason there was a shortfall in output to a value of 5.2 billion tenge. The basic reasons for the stoppages are difficulties caused by lack of material resources due to shortages of funds.

Agriculture and Forestry

In the period January-March 1995 the volume of gross agricultural production throughout the republic is estimated at 13.5 billion tenge (in 1995 prices), which is 22 percent lower than the volume in the corresponding period last year.

The farming enterprises of the southern region are continuing the spring sowing campaign by blocking off wetlands and harrowing winter crops. The sowing campaign has started. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, by the beginning of April, spring crops had been sown on a total of 200,000 hectares, mainly in the Dzhambul and south Kazakhstan regions. The agricultural activities that have been started are being held back by a lack of money, fuel, and faulty machinery.

Agricultural activities have already been started in the republic's south. A total of 20 to 30 percent of seeding-machines, ploughs, and cultivators are not ready to go to the fields; one in four vehicles is out of order and in Kzyl-Orda region this figure is one in two.

The main reason for the decline in animal husbandry was a further fall in productivity and the loss of livestock. Thus the milk yield in agricultural complexes was 272 kg per cow for the first quarter of this year, a drop of

72 kg (21 percent) against the same period last year. Laying capacity was 40 eggs per hen (a drop of seven percent).

The provision of animal fodder in farming enterprises is, overall, slightly higher than last year. The supply of fodder per head of livestock stood at an average of 6.2 quintals of fodder against 5.6 quintals in the same period last year. From 1993 a trend has been observed toward reducing sales of livestock products to state procurement organizations. Procurements by the state of live cattle and poultry compared to the same period last year for milk was 38 percent and for eggs was 41 percent. [sentence as received]

A total of 22,500 peasant (private farm) enterprises had been registered in the republic by the beginning of 1995. This represented an annual increase of 40 percent. Peasant enterprises have been assigned 7.7 million hectares of agricultural land, the average plot being 348 hectares.

In 1994, according to preliminary calculations, farmers produced agricultural products worth 1.5 billion tenge in current prices.

Price and Charge Indexes

The overall inflation rate—the consumer price index—was 122.1 percent in the first quarter of this year. Since the introduction of the national currency (November 1993) prices have gone up by a factor of 21, and since the start of price reforms (January 1992) by a factor of 10,654. Inflation processes in all areas are showing a clear tendency to slow.

The average rate of monthly rises in industrial manufacturers' prices was nine percent in the first quarter of 1995, five points lower than in the fourth quarter and 300 percent lower than in the first quarter of 1994. The average charges for the main types of fuel have increased 26 percent since the beginning of this year. The prices of raw fuels rose most of all (by 49 percent).

The March level of wholesale prices charged by the republic's coal mining enterprises showed a 28 percent increase on the December 1994 figure. In view of the reorganization of the gas industry and the demonopolization of natural gas procurements by the state, wholesale prices for gas remained practically unchanged during the first quarter of 1995.

With the creation of a competitive environment for oil products distribution, manufacturers' prices of these items grew at a rate that was 200 percent slower than that of crude oil prices over this quarter. Domestic prices of oil products have come close to world market prices, whereas domestic crude prices are only 40 percent of world prices.

The slowing inflation rates in the industrial sectors are largely attributable to the stabilization of prices in the electricity sector. The charges for electricity and heating

for all categories of consumers have remained unchanged since October last year, while for industrial enterprises they have fallen by an average of 10 percent since February.

Wholesale prices charged by the republic's metallurgical enterprises rose 43 percent this year after a certain slowing of the increase in the fourth quarter, and was 17 points higher than the increase in fuel prices.

At 147.9 percent, the rise in prices and charges for paid public services was 140 percent higher than the increase in consumer goods prices. This increase is attributable to the periodic increases in payments for housing and communal services in certain areas. As a result, increases of 370 percent for heating charges, 160 percent for housing, and 70 percent for water supplies were recorded across the republic in the first quarter.

The services rendered by sanatoria and health resorts, health recreation institutions, and cultural establishments became 40-49 percent more expensive over the quarter. Household services and the services of medical and preschool establishments became 18-23 percent more expensive.

Transport and Communications

In the first quarter of 1995 the volume of freight transport was 54.4 million tonnes. This is 21.2 percent lower than in the first quarter of 1994. In March 1995 the volume of freight transport was up on February and January of this year by 9.6 percent and 8.5 percent respectively, but down 27.2 percent compared with March 1994.

Railway freight was four percent lower in the first quarter of 1995 than in the same period last year.

The volume of the main kinds of freight goods to be transported was fulfilled: coke (100 percent), iron ore (146.6 percent), ferrous metals (107.9 percent), chemical and mineral fertilizers (169.1 percent), grain and flour products (100.7 percent).

The volume of road freight in the first quarter of the current year fell by almost half on the same period last year, and passenger transport fell by 13.5 percent. Foreign economic activities In January-February 1995, Kazakhstan's foreign trade turnover was \$850.2 million—a rise of 10 percent over the same period in 1994, including exports of \$445.7 million (a rise of 64 percent) and imports of \$404.5 million (a drop of 20 percent). Trade turnover with non-former Soviet countries in January-February fell by 11 percent and was \$361.4 million. Trade turnover with countries of the former Soviet Union rose by 32 percent and was \$488.8 million.

The main part of the total export volume was made up by the export of ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgical products, at 52 percent of the total (52 percent in the same period last year), mineral fuels at 15 percent (17

percent last year), chemical products and other related industries at 13 percent (15 percent last year).

The main imports were machinery, equipment, vehicles, and instruments, which accounted for 36 percent of the total (38 percent in January-February 1994); and fuel and energy resources, at 26 percent (27 percent last year).

Finance and Credit

Receipts of state taxes and other compulsory payments into the budgetary system (including funds attracted to cover the budget deficit) totalled 18.4 billion tenge as of 1 March 1995. There were no substantial shifts in the structure of state budget revenue. The main revenue items continue to be profit tax (15 percent), VAT (17 percent), personal income tax (16 percent), and the receipts of special-purpose revenue funds (17 percent).

State budget expenditure was 16 million tenge in January-February. About 47 percent of budget spending went on social and cultural purposes and more than 22 percent to support economy sectors. The financial state of the republic's enterprises and organizations continues to be difficult, principally because of the unregulated mutual payments within the economy. As of 1 March this year the total debt of enterprises in industry and agriculture (including debts for credits and loans) had increased 34.2 billion tenge since January to reach 230.6 billion tenge.

The number of unprofitable enterprises is increasing. As of 1 March there were 2,483 of them. In other words, almost one in three showed negative results. Overdue debts to the budget owed by enterprises and organizations in industry, transport, construction, and agriculture grew 87 percent on the January figure to reach 12.4 billion tenge.

Credit investments into the economy is decreasing. As of 1 March such investment totalled about 555 billion tenge. The portion of long-term credits channeled into financing investment processes amounts to only 3.5 percent of total credit investment. Debts owed for assigning funds to pay wages are increasing in branches of the economy. As of 1 March this debt had reached 3.2 billion tenge [as received], 11.2 billion tenge of this (or more than 95 percent) concentrated in industry, agriculture, and construction. There were 7,361 enterprises and organizations that had such debts. About half of them have debts that have been outstanding for three or more months. The sum of such debts totals 6.1 billion tenge.

Privatization

The process of transforming state property continued on the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan in January-March. The total income from privatization of enterprises (including funds received from enterprises privatized in previous years) is 242 million tenge this year, 90 percent of which has been channeled into the state budget (last year's figures were 145 million tenge and 59 percent, correspondingly).

Social Situation

Personal Income

Personal income totalled 196,965,100,000 tenge in January and 138,722 million tenge in February this year, showing a rise of 830 percent on January-February 1994. Wages increased 730 percent over this period, pensions, benefits, student's grants, and other incomes increased by 1,230 percent, and other forms of income by 560 percent.

When the price index is taken into account, real disposable personal income increased by 20.4 percent in January and 8.7 percent in February on the same months in 1994. It was 934 tenge per capita in January 1995 and 711 tenge in February.

Personal income fell by 8.1 percent in January and by 24.9 percent in February against the December level.

Personal Expenditure

Personal expenditure exceeded its December level by 24.5 percent in January and 25.5 percent in February. The volume of disposable cash fell from 5,096.3 million tenge in December to 667.7 million tenge in January and then to 303 million tenge in February.

In January 1995 the population spent a total of 8,248.7 million tenge on goods and services, and in February they spent 7,338.4 million tenge. These sums were 111.5 percent (January) and 115.8 percent (February) of the December figure. [sentence as received]

Although personal income fell substantially in January-February on December last year, spending on buying foreign currency took up an increasing proportion of income expenditure patterns: in January it was 9.3 percent greater and in February 9.4 percent greater than the December 1994 figure.

The growth in deposits in commercial banks in January-February increased 3,770 percent on the same period the previous year, the result of interest rates that were higher than those of the savings banks.

Wages

The average wage of people working in the republic's economy was 3,650 tenge in February this current year, an increase of only 2.2 percent on the previous month. Based on the official exchange rate of the National Bank (as of 1 March 1995), the average [February] wage was \$61, and fell by 2.3 percent over the month.

The average February wage of workers employed in the material production sectors was 4,103 tenge in February and 2,493 tenge in the nonproduction sphere. A trend for the rise in average wages in non-production sectors to surpass that in the material production sector can be seen. Thus, average wages grew 2.7 percent in the non-production sphere over the month, and one percent in material production.

In February the level of real wages adjusted to take account of the consumer price index dropped four percent on January across the republic.

According to the experts, average monthly wages of workers employed in the republic's economy will come to 3,900 tenge in March this year—4,350 tenge in enterprises and organizations in the material production sector and 2,700 tenge in the nonproduction sphere.

Employment

In the period under review the outflow of employees from enterprises and organizations as well as the rise in the numbers of actual and hidden (potential) unemployed continued to increase.

At 4.910 million, the number of people employed in the republic's economic sectors (excluding collective farms, joint ventures and small enterprises) in January-February was 8.4 percent down on the same period in 1994. The most substantial drop in employment numbers (11.1 percent) is taking place in the material production sector.

As of the beginning of April this year there were 85,700 people in the republic with unemployed status. At the same time, the officially-stated demand for manpower at enterprises and organizations was only 24,700, or a factor of 3.5 less.

The hidden unemployment situation is becoming more acute. According to the regional employment services, at the start of the year 230 enterprises with 51,000 employees were standing idle due to their unstable functioning for a variety of economic reasons, and by April the number of such enterprises had risen to 376 with more than 90,000 employees.

Consumer Market

During the January-March period consumer goods worth 28.5876 billion tenge were sold to the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan via all channels. Retail turnover of goods was 49.5 percent down on the same period in 1994. The turnover of public catering establishments was 2.005 million tenge, its physical volumes showing a 36 percent drop on the first quarter of 1994. Turnover in the public catering sector accounted for 9.4 percent of all retail turnover (in January-March 1994 it was 8.6 percent).

Demographic Situation

As of 1 January 1995 the republic's population stood at 16.7 million. Of this number, 9.3 million or 56 percent was urban and 7.4 million or 44 percent rural. In 1994 the total population of Kazakhstan fell by 263,300 or 1.5 percent; in 1993 it fell by 4.373 million [as received] or 0.2 percent.

One of the main reasons for the falling numbers of Kazakhstan people is the declining level of natural population growth, a result both of the falling birth rate

and of increasing mortality. The number of births in January-February was 4,700 less than the same period last year, and the birth rate fell 7.9 percent to 16.7 percent per 1,000 people. The fall in the birth rate was sharper among the urban population, the rate here being 35.9 percent lower than in rural areas. The natural population growth in rural areas accounts for more than 80 per cent of the total increase.

The number of deaths rose by 1,500 and the mortality rate increased by 7.7 percent to 10.2 percent. Urban mortality was 32.9 per cent higher than in rural areas.

Kyrgyzstan

Japan Grants Bishkek 1 Billion Yen Credit

LD2004190595 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Japanese Foreign Ministry reports that the government of the Land of the Rising Sun has decided to allocate a grant of 1 billion yen to the Kyrgyz Republic.

It is worth noting that this aid grant is the first not tied to a specific project, and that it is being allocated as a contribution to structural reorganization of the Kyrgyz economy. The Japanese Government considers that although God did not grant Kyrgyzstan rich resources, the republic's economy is suffering from grave depression because of the collapse of the Soviet Union. The Kyrgyz Republic has nevertheless, proved to be the most active of the five Central Asian republics in pursuing economic reform and striving to reinforce relations with Western countries, including Japan. This grant may help overcome the economic hardships in the country.

President Askar Akayev has expressed thanks to the Japanese Government for supporting the reforms that are being conducted.

Parliament Approves Proposed Government Structure

LD2004172195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1607 GMT 20 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature, compiled by Nikolay Zhrebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Thursday joint session of Kyrgyz parliament houses approved the government structure proposed by Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov.

The positions of a first deputy prime minister and deputy prime ministers in charge of agriculture, science, culture and education and industry have been approved.

Parliament agreed that the government ministries will be interior, public health, foreign, defense, culture, education, industry and trade, communication, agriculture

and food, labor and social protection, transport, finance, justice and water supply. The State Economy Committee has been transformed into the Economy Ministry. State committees on Architecture and Construction, Geology, National Security, Nature Protection, Sport and Tourism and a State Emergency Situations Commission have been set up.

The government will include heads of the Property Fund and the government headquarters.

Parliament also decided to ask the president to include the heads of the State TV and Radio Company and the State Investment Committee into the government.

Parliament is scheduled to discuss the nominations for ministerial positions and vote for a final government composition in a joint session.

New Cabinet of Ministers Formed

LD2104094795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0929 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By Boris Mainayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek, April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—A new Cabinet of Ministers has been formed in Kyrgyzstan. The new cabinet consists of four vice-premiers and 15 ministers. It was formed on a professional, rather than a party basis.

Nowadays, there are 12 political parties registered in Kyrgyzstan, but none of them managed to win enough seats in parliament to claim the right to form a new cabinet. Therefore, the cabinet, like its predecessors, was formed by Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov, who had coordinated his choice with the Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev. The newly appointed members of the cabinet were endorsed by both chambers of the Kyrgyz Parliament.

Three candidates to the cabinet were rejected, including the Finance Minister Kemelbek Nanayev, the Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Berkbolot Talgarbekov and Chairman of the Kyrgyz State Committee for the Environment Iskander Muratalin. The latter two candidates practically do not have any weight in the present political situation in Kyrgyzstan, while the finance minister—is one of the key figures in the Kyrgyz president's team. Local observers believe that the Kyrgyz president might make another attempt to have the Finance Minister Kemelbek Nanayev endorsed by the parliament.

The three Kyrgyz ministers in charge of power structures and the Kyrgyz foreign minister have retained their posts. As for the nationality of the new cabinet, for the most part it consists of representatives of the "title" nation. Aleksandr Moiseyev was appointed vice-premier for industry and construction, Larisa Gutchenko—minister of justice. Both Moiseyev and Gutchenko represent the Russian-speaking group of the Kyrgyz society. Andrey Iordan, who is German by nationality, retained

his post as the minister of trade and industry. Zafar Khakimov, a native of Uzbekistan, was appointed minister of labour and social welfare.

Tajikistan

'Source' Says Opposition May Mount New Attacks

LD2104074795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0646 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—One Tajik policeman and one opposition militant were killed in a clash late on Thursday [20 April] in the Garm region of Tajikistan, some 200 kilometres east of the capital of Dushanbe.

Another policeman and two passers-by were wounded and two militants seized, head of the public order department of the Tajik Interior Ministry Nikolay Madzhar told TASS Friday.

He said the clash occurred when a police unit was combing mountain valleys of the Garm region at the foothills of the Pamir mountains.

Madzhar admitted that small groups of Tajik opposition militants remain in the Garm region, but said the situation there is fully controlled by the government.

Independent sources, however, told TASS that the opposition groups in the Garm region may mount their activities because of the situation on the border with Afghanistan and the promises of some leaders of the irreconcilable opposition to help create a new opposition movement there.

Border Guards Sent To Reinforce Pamir

LD2104075295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0719 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 21 (ITAR-TASS)—600 Tajik border guards were sent to reinforce the Pamir branch of the border with Afghanistan where new attacks of Afghanistan-based opposition militants are expected, a spokesman of the Tajik Security Ministry told TASS Friday [21 April].

"The action is undertaken to reinforce the protection of those sections of the border where attempts of militants of the Islamic opposition to break through are most probable", he said.

The spokesman refused to disclose how many border guards are to be airlifted to the frontier. "There will be as many of them as is necessary for a reliable protection of the border jointly with the Russian and Kazakh border guards", he said.

"This is not only the southern frontiers of the CIS, but also the state border of Tajikistan", the spokesman said.

CPF Commander Patrikeyev Holds Press Conference

Rejects Media Charges Against CPF

MM2104083795 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Vitaliy Strugovets: "Peacekeeping Troops Have Been Helping Border Guards and Will Continue To Do So"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The charges leveled by several mass media at the Collective Peacekeeping Forces (CPF) regarding their noninvolvement in combat operations on the Tajik-Afghan border were totally rejected by CPF Commander Colonel General Valeriy Patrikeyev at a press conference held at the Ministry of Defense 20 April.

Based on the CPF's tasks, which determine their status, Col. Gen. Patrikeyev stressed, we should provide in-depth support for the Group of Russian Border Guard Troops in Tajikistan. The CPF commander noted that these tasks now consist of providing artillery and air support for Russian Border Guard Troops subunits. Collaboration between the CPF and the Border Guard Troops has been most successful in the Pyandzh and Moskovskiy Border Detachment sectors where the 201st Russian Motorized Rifle Division's zone of responsibility is located. Things are considerably worse in the Kalayi-Khumb, Khorog, and Ishkashimsk Border Detachment sectors, which should be receiving support from peacekeeping battalions from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. Col. Gen. Patrikeyev emphasized that these subunits regrettably do not have a full supply of personnel and arms. Valeriy Patrikeyev also pointed out that the optimum scenario for the CPF in Tajikistan might be for them to obtain the status of UN forces.

As for the slanderous attacks on the CPF, the general is convinced that the lies should be punished. He intends to file charges against several mass media, including, he said, Russian Television.

Says 100 CIS Soldiers Killed Since 1993

LD2004172595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 20 (Interfax)—Over the period of presence in Tajikistan of collective peacekeeping forces (CPF) since October 1993, over 100 servicemen from Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have been killed, CPF commander, said Colonel-General Valeriy Patrikeyev.

Addressing a news conference in Moscow on Thursday, he said that only 15 servicemen died in fighting, the rest as a result of diversions of the Tajik opposition.

According to Patrikeyev, the main task for the "blue helmets" in Tajikistan is to create defense in echelon at the most dangerous sections. He said that to expand the zone of the peacekeepers' activities in the Pamir area and in Gorny Badakhshan it is necessary to increase the number of peacekeepers up to 16,000.

"Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan have not fulfilled in full measure the decision on sending national units to the CPF contingent in Tajikistan," said the general.

Answering journalists' questions, Patrikeyev said that "the conflict in Tajikistan should not be solved through the use of force". He believes if the peacekeepers leave the republic before the situation normalizes, "a flow of drugs and firearms will increase via Tajikistan to the CIS and Western countries."

Deputy Defense Minister Yelena Agapova told reporters that Patrikeyev, who is expected to be replaced in May by General Valentin Bobryshev, will be appointed to the post of a general-inspector of the main Military Inspectorate of the Russian Armed Forces.

CIS defense ministers met the personal request of Patrikeyev, who for two terms occupied the post of the peacekeepers' commander in Tajikistan, and relieved him of his post. Their decision is to be approved by the Council of the CIS Heads of State at its meeting on May 26.

Badakhshan Supports Government, Opposition Talks

LD2004172995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1548 GMT 20 Apr 95

[By Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe, April 20 (ITAR-TASS)—The leadership of Tajikistan's Badakhshan region expressed support for the Moscow consultations between the government and the opposition in a message addressed to the delegation from the Tajik Government.

The message signed by the region's leader Alimamad Niezmamadov says the inhabitants of the region located in the Pamirs fully trust the delegation from the government and support the policy of the Dushanbe leadership aiming to stabilise the public and political situation both in the republic as a whole and in its Badakhshan autonomy.

Evidence of this support can be seen in the meetings and pickets organised near the bases of the opposition militants in some districts of the Badakhshan region. The meetings and pickets demanded that the militants lay down arms, remove their posts and put an end to acts of provocation against the CIS Border Troops stationed in the Pamirs, the message said. Calls on all outsiders to leave the territory of the autonomy were voiced by participants, the message added.

Sources in Tajikistan's Security Ministry confirmed these facts. According to the sources, participants in the meetings and pickets in Badakhshan call for a political settlement of the problems.

The same sources said the situation in Badakhshan was generally tending towards instability due to the subversive activity of an armed opposition group under Field Commander Madjun who had been ordered by the opposition leaders located abroad to provoke armed clashes with local authorities and Russian Border Guards with a view to seizing power in Badakhshan and turning the area into a bridgehead in the struggle against the Dushanbe Government.

Nonetheless, other opposition groups in the Pamirs show no signs of activity and have removed all but one of their outposts. One fire emplacement is still maintained in the direct proximity to the Khorog Border Troops location.

Experts say the wait-and-see attitude of these groups is connected with the consultations in Moscow. The militants are waiting to see the results of the current consultations in Moscow and of the forthcoming fourth round of talks between the government and the opposition.

Rakhmanov To Meet Tajik Opposition Leader

LD2004170095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1502 GMT 20 Apr 95

[By Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe, April 20 (ITAR-TASS)—Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov on Thursday said he was ready to meet personally Said Abdullo Nuri, leader of the movement of Tajik Islamic Rebirth, with a view to prevent further conflicts at Tajikistan's border with Afghanistan and to establish a durable peace and stability in this Central Asian republic.

In a press release, the Tajik president applauded the consultations currently held in Moscow between Tajikistan's government and opposition delegations, expressing hope that they would be constructive and produce good results, according to spokesman for the Tajik Foreign Ministry Zafar Saidov.

Rakhmanov also announced the government's decision to prolong indefinitely the intra-Tajik temporary ceasefire agreement signed in Tehran last Autumn and extended until April 26, 1995.

The Tajik Government is prepared to create requisite conditions for the soonest possible return of Tajik refugees from Afghanistan, the country's leader said in the press release.

Karimov on 'Successful' Economic Talks in Moscow

LD2004190695 Dushanbe KHOVAR in Russian 0630 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Recently a government delegation headed by Prime Minister Jamshed Karimov

returned from Moscow. The main topic of talks with the government delegation from the Russian Federation was the implementation of the intergovernmental agreement on deepening economic cooperation and developing integration links, which was signed on 27 February.

KHOVAR correspondent Andrey Sidorin met the prime minister and asked him about the results of the talks.

"The joint work was successful," Karimov said. He added: We worked out and approved time scales for the supply of cotton and aluminum from Tajikistan and of grain, fuel, and lubricants from Russia. Specifically, Russia will deliver 40,000 tonnes of fuel and lubricants in April, provided that Tajikistan meets its obligations. Tajikistan fulfilled its obligations for March, supplying about 3,000 tonnes of cotton fiber and 1,500 tonnes of aluminum.

A group of advisers is to arrive in Tajikistan. Their main aim is to coordinate activities relating to the parts of the agreement dealing with the joint completion of projects of priority importance for both sides—first and foremost the Rogun hydroelectric power station. Currently projects on attracting foreign investments are being worked out. However, Karimov emphasized, cooperation must be mutually advantageous.

Everyone is concerned about the issue of Tajikistan setting up its own monetary system. This question was also discussed at the meeting. An agreement was reached on allotting 60 billion rubles to the republic. This is the balance of the 80 billion which Russia allocated last year. Agreement was reached that we are to receive 10 billion rubles in cash and the rest in commodity credits. Out of the 60 billion, 50 billion will be earmarked for importing goods and purchasing raw materials for our industrial enterprises—including those in the food and processing industries.

We have not given up hope of the republic entering the ruble zone—to which end we brought our legislation in line with Russia's. But the political situation which has currently taken shape in Russia is delaying the resolution of this question. We are also to discuss questions connected with the creation of our own monetary system with representatives of the IMF, who are to arrive in a few days' time. As is known, arrears on the payment of people's wages have already reached 700 billion rubles while, according to other data, we have commodity resources worth only 30-40 billion rubles. That is why the hasty introduction of a national currency under such conditions would be a criminal act toward our people.

In the course of preparatory work for the introduction of a national currency some recommendations will be set out, which will be presented to the president. However they must be carried out and presented to the president in the shortest period of time, because we have exhausted the patience of our people.

Currently, above all, we need a monetary system which would promote the start of work at our enterprises. Its creation is also important for us from the point of view of strategy.

Signs of an industrial revival in the first quarter are giving hope for a speedy revival of the economy, though there is still a sense of unease. For the first time in years, the Dushanbe textile enterprise has started to work in three shifts; for the first time after a number of disruptions connected with gas supplies being cut off, the Yavanskiy electrochemical plant has started operating; the Vakhshkiy nitrogen plant will go into operation soon. Peasants are carrying out sowing work, though under great difficulties. Although things are very difficult as yet, it can be said that all the preconditions have already been created for an economic breakthrough.

As our delegation was in Moscow at the time of the armed provocations on the Tajik-Afghan border, naturally this question was also discussed there. The Russian side declared that Russian border guards, Russian troops, would implement to the full the agreements that were concluded within the framework of the collective security agreement of the CIS countries.

Turkmenistan

Agreement Signed With Russia's LUKoil
LD2104093295 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Turkmen 0500 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The famous Russian oil company LUKoil have concluded an agreement on cooperation with the Ministry of Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan. This cooperation will be developed in the field of geology and geophysical prospecting on the territories of worthwhile areas of western Turkmenistan.

As the senior geologist of the Ministry of Oil and Gas Kh. K. Babayev said to a TURKMEN PRESS correspondent, LUKoil also proposed its services in granting necessary equipment, appliances, and materials for oil extraction, the use of which will allow the considerable increase in the volumes of prospecting and drilling works at oil deposits.

As the document says the setting up of the joint venture is envisaged for the near future, where the Turkmen side will be represented by the Balkanbeitzazsenagat concern.

Economic Accords With Russia Detailed
LD2004215395 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 0500 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Russia and Turkmenistan are taking active measures to step up further development of wide-scale cooperation. The talks held in Ashgabat by government delegations from the two countries provided clear evidence of this. A substantial package of 36

agreements prepared for signing by the heads of the two states in Moscow was the result of the meeting between Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov and President Saparmurad Niyazov, as well as of painstaking work by the experts. [passage omitted]

The Agreement on Basic Principles for Trade and Economic Cooperation in 1995 provides for a significant increase in trade turnover volume between the two countries. The abolition of quotas and licenses for mutual deliveries will be a factor of considerable importance here.

The parties agreed to promote deliveries of the most important types of output as a priority. Thus, deliveries of Turkmen cotton fiber to Russia will be significantly increased. Whereas last year Russian enterprises received only 17,000 tonnes, this year they will be supplied with up to 70,000 tonnes of raw cotton. Furthermore, Turkmenistan will send a significant amount of sheepskin, coke, viticultural, and chemical products to Russia. In return, the Russian partners will send Turkmen consumers about 45,000 tonnes of compressed gas, products of the ferrous and non-ferrous metals industries and mechanical engineering, oil-refining and oil-exploration equipment, Yenisey grain harvesters, buses, trucks and cars, timber, and consumer goods.

It has been decided that mutual payments will take place at contractual negotiable prices using world prices as a guideline. Furthermore, a proportion of deliveries will be carried out through clearing payments. For example, it is proposed to conclude contracts based on clearing payments between Roskontrakt and the Turkmen agriculture and food ministry for supplementary deliveries of 10,000 tonnes of cotton fiber to Russia. Turkmenistan will receive grain, flour, sugar, and dried milk to an equivalent value. [passage omitted]

The sides are currently developing an agreement on long-term economic cooperation until the year 2000. Matters relating to Russian participation in the development of Turkmenistan's oil and gas industry have been attached a significant importance. Russia will become a principal partner in prospecting, equipping, and exploiting oil and gas deposits and transporting the output.

Ways for cooperation have also been mapped out in the area of developing north-south transport routes through Turkmenistan, including the construction and running of railway lines. In order to implement these projects it was decided to set up joint Turkmen-Russian companies.

A joint standing commission, for which Niyazov and Aleksey Bolshakov stressed the need during their meeting, will promote the swift resolution of all kinds of economic issues. [passage omitted]

Deputy Prime Minister Pays Visit to India

Meets With Prime Minister Rao

LD1904124895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1227 GMT 19 Apr 95

[By Leonid Kotov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, April 19 (ITAR-TASS)—Deputy prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan Boris Shakhmuradov, who is on a working visit in India, met Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in New Delhi today. They held talks on providing international guarantees aimed at ensuring permanent status of a neutral state to Turkmenistan.

The head of the Indian Government appreciated Turkmenistan's intention of officially accepting the status of a neutral state. Rao welcomed Ashgabat's aspirations to play a constructive, peacemaking role in the area, and its desire to become a mediator in resolving political, trade and economic issues which emerge among Asian countries. This idea received a specific meaning as a result of signing a document in the Indian capital today, which for the first time envisages shipments of Indian goods across Turkmenistan to central Asia and CIS countries via Iranian territory.

"Maintaining traditional friendly partner-like relations with Russia and the CIS states, Turkmenistan is taking active steps to widen cooperation with all members of the world community," Shakhmuradov emphasized in an interview with ITAR-TASS. "This urge is stated in a personal message of Turkmenistan's President Saparmurad Niyazov handed over to the Indian prime minister. In it, the head of Turkmen state, in particular, informed P.V. Narasimha Rao that at the conference of the non-aligned movement (NAM) scheduled to be held in Bandung (Indonesia) at the end of this month Turkmenistan will officially request to be made a member of this influential international organization.

Shikhmuradov Briefs Indians on Trade

LD2004164995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1437 GMT 20 Apr 95

[By Leonid Kotov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, April 20 (ITAR-TASS)—Turkmenistan maintains friendly relations with Russia and is actively developing cooperation with Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and India. Recently concluded by Turkmenistan agreements on transit of goods with Iran and Armenia, on shipment of its gas to Ukraine, and on a joint project for oil exploration of the Caspian Sea shelf, which will be carried out in collaboration with Russia and Iran have contributed to widening of Ashgabat's interaction with the international community, said Turkmenistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Boris Shikhmuradov at a meeting with representatives of Indian business circles here today.

Islamabad has expressed its consent to Turkmenistan's proposal about laying a pan-Asian pipeline for pumping gas produced in Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan, as well as India, and later, probably, countries of the Far East.

"Like other republics of Central Asia, Turkmenistan is also prepared to widen trade and economic cooperation with all states interested in it, above all, India, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan," Turkmen vice-premier emphasised. "Establishing ties with them will contribute to Turkmenistan's entry into the Organization of Economic Cooperation [OEC] created by a number of Moslem states", he said.

According to Shikhmuradov, "Turkmenistan, which conducts a policy of continued positive neutrality, is against politicization of activities of the OEC, and favours inclusion in it of non-Moslem states. He emphasised that Russia has already requested it to be granted an observer's status for participation in activities of the OEC.

Uzbekistan

Trial of Alleged Coup Plotters Ends in Tashkent

MM2004120995 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 95 p 5

[Report by Adilbek Kaipbergenov: "Businessmen with Dynamite. Much Publicized Court Trial in Uzbekistan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tashkent—A trial has just ended in the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan. A criminal case against a group of people charged with complicity in organizing a "plot aimed at the violent overthrow of the constitutional system with the aim of seizing power" was being heard. A brief report issued by the official Uzbek news agency says that the main defendants in the trial have been given lengthy prison sentences.

It has been established that 46 young people were selected in Kashka-Darya Oblast from among those who had performed service in the Army to carry out the dangerous plan initiated by Salay Madaminov, former chairman of the former democratic party "Erk" ("Freedom"). Of these, 21 were tricked into being illegally taken to Turkey apparently to be trained as businessmen... There the young people were indoctrinated with the appropriate ideology and trained in special methods of hand-to-hand combat, the use of modern firearms, the ability to deal with explosives, and the taking of hostages.

The lessons given were not just theoretical, and they could practice in one of the military units. They were taken through Azerbaijan to Grozny in order to acquire

some real military skills. It was explained that, after such "training," they would be able to earn their living as bodyguards.

S. Madaminov, who is better known in Uzbekistan and outside it under his poet's pseudonym, later also political pseudonym, of Muhammad Salikh, used to frequent the resolute "informal" groups of young people during the perestroyka years, later founded and became head of the "Erk" party, which put forward the slogan "First—Independence, Then—Democracy," and in December 1991 he ran for election to the post of president of Uzbekistan, running against Islam Karimov, now head of state. Following his "major" defeat at the nationwide elections, he made a point of giving up his powers as deputy of the republic Supreme Council and later went abroad. He mainly lives in Turkey. Today, together with a group of kindred spirits, he constitutes the hard-line opposition to official Tashkent. In the opinion of the court, it was under his auspices that the potential "businessmen" were retrained for seven to eight months as "bodyguards" of various types, and then in November of last year went via Azerbaijan to train in Chechnya. There the young men, by some miracle, from what they themselves said, managed to avoid participating in the large-scale military operations which were about to begin. It is obvious on which side they would have been...

Then they were sent back to their homeland in mobile groups of three to five men, having been categorically forbidden to go home under threat of reprisals against them and their families. The groups were to wait for a signal in assigned places. According to reports in the Tashkent newspaper KHALK SOZI, the "bodyguards" were instructed to be ready to carry out any task. In the event of there being opposition to members of the "Erk" party during the elections in Uzbekistan, they were to go into action, taking senior officials and members of their families as hostages.

The trial featured the entire gentlemanly cast of a thriller movie: deceived people, recruiting agents, false papers for obtaining foreign passports, bribes for visas, large sums of money. But it is hard to believe that the organizers did not know of the possible consequences. In real life it is not red paint but real blood that is spilt in such "detective stories." You do not have to go far to find examples. In neighboring Tajikistan the first single shots in the "fight for democracy" are still echoing with deadly reverberations...

State Inspectorate Fights Drug Trafficking on Border

LD2004135395 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Apr 95

[Report over video by correspondent Shakhnoza Ganiyeva; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Uzbekistan has declared war on drug trafficking. More than two [metric] tonnes of narcotic substances were confiscated in this country recently when attempts were made to transport the contraband

from neighboring states to Russia and Europe. A special directorate of the Interior Ministry for fighting illegal drug trafficking, the National Security Service, the customs and state motor vehicle inspectorate are dealing with drug problems in the republic.

Taking into account the openness of the borders between the Central Asian countries and the peculiarities of the roads in the region, it is difficult to overestimate the work which the state motor vehicle inspectorate does to halt the illegal transportation of drugs and sometimes of

weapons. Over the past year employees of the inspectorate confiscated hundreds of kilograms of poppy [kuknor], marijuana, and other narcotic substances. I would like to remind you that in Uzbekistan the penalty for selling drugs is up to 15 years' imprisonment or capital punishment.

In connection with the exacerbation of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, all the inspectorate's posts, especially those close to neighboring states, have been reinforced.

Armenia

President, Premier Receive U.S. Energy Official

NC2004212695 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First
Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan today received U.S. Deputy Energy Secretary William White and the delegation accompanying him.

The Armenian presidential press service reported that matters relating to the development of the energy sector in Armenia were discussed during the meeting. Armenian president's chief adviser Zhirayr Liparityan was present at the meeting.

Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan also received the same delegation today. In commenting on the recommissioning of the nuclear power plant, Mr. White said that in the opinion of the United States the Armenian Republic has no other alternative [to the nuclear plant] in the years ahead to ensure its energy needs.

The Armenian president's chief adviser, Zhirayr Liparityan; Economy Minister Armen Yeghiazaryan; Energy and Fuel Minister Miron Shishmanyany; U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Harry Gilmore; Congressman (Gregg Lapkin); and American specialists on energy policy and commercial cooperation were present at the meeting.

Unity Necessary To Succeed in Elections

NC2004174495 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English
1636 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 19/04/95 NOYAN TAPAN—"The Presidential decree temporarily suspending the activities of one of the leading opposition parties—ARF [Armenian Revolutionary Federation]-Dashnaksutyun in Armenia is first of all a political move and followed it resolution by the Armenian Supreme Court and arrests in connection with the activities of a clandestine "DRO" organization were just the attempts to juridically confirm the presidential decree, however these attempts have failed,"—a representative of the ARF-Dashnaksutyun Bureau Vahan Hovhannesian said during the April 19 news conference.

According to Hovhannesian, on the eve of parliamentary elections the pressure of authorities on the opposition will be stepped up. "The opposition in Armenia is artificially estranged from the people. The opposition is declared public enemy", he said. He pointed out that the Supreme Council's decision to adopt the president's version of the Constitution by referendum is an attempt to completely establish autocracy in Armenia.

Hovhannesian reported that ARF's request for participation in parliamentary elections was rejected by the Central Election Commission. "Despite all this, ARF will continue its activities", Hovhannesian emphasized.

Member of the Central Committee of ARF-Dashnaksutyun Ruben Hakobyan appearing at the news conference reported that only unity will enable opposition to attain certain success during the upcoming parliamentary elections. He underscored that allocation of 40 seats for proportional election system splitted the opposition. Negotiations concerning these problems are being held among parties-members of the Alliance of National Accord.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Plans No Referendum To Prolong Term

LD2004163395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319
GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, April 20 (Interfax)—The Azeri President Geydar Aliyev has declared he does not intend to prolong his term through a referendum.

"When my term expires, elections will be held. If voters wish, they can elect me again," he stressed in an interview with national television broadcast Wednesday evening.

The interviewer told Aliyev television is receiving numerous letters stressing the need for prolonging the term of the current president expiring in autumn 1998.

Aliyev reaffirmed the determination of the authorities to hold parliamentary elections in October 1995.

U.S.-Azerbaijani Trade Agreement Ratified

NC2004165495 Baku TURAN in English 1459 GMT 19
Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (April 19) TURAN—"The Milli Mejlis approved an "Agreement on Trade-Economic Relations" between the US and Azerbaijan" today. Nine letters have also been approved, which are constituent segments of the agreement. This agreement was signed on April 12, 1993 by former Foreign Minister Tofiq Gasanov. The Head of the Legal Department of the Supreme Council, Khalaf Khalafov, said addressing at the session that "most countries try to have similar agreements with the US, but there are very few who manage to sign it." He said that the document was agreed upon by many other government entities of the republic and its ratification is a tremendous advantage for Azerbaijan in the world market.

According to Vice Speaker, Arif Rehimzade, the agreement deals with issues concerning the trading of and the production of goods.

"The agreement will create beneficial conditions for trade between Azerbaijan and the US and will attract a lot of foreign investors," he noted. This agreement was ratified by 32 votes "for" and one abstention.

Georgia

U.S. Ambassador Warns Against Assisting Iran

LD2004134095 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1315 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—U.S. Deputy Secretary for Energy William White told a news conference today that Georgia has the means to become a transit country in the transportation of oil from Azerbaijan to Europe. [passage omitted]

Kent Brown, the U.S. ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Georgia, said in connection with the Iranian president's visit to Georgia that the United States is opposed to Iran becoming another nuclear power and will not support those countries which assist Iran's militaristic course. (As has become known to an agency correspondent from reliable sources, Georgia is currently holding talks with Iran on supplying Iran with the Su-25 ground-attack aircraft. The fact that Rafsanjani, within the framework of his visit to Georgia, intends to visit the Tbilisi aircraft factory, where the military aircraft are assembled, is indirect evidence of the above plan).

Ministers Discuss Cooperation With Iranian Group

LD2004120595 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1045 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—The official visit to Georgia by Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, continues. The leaders of the two countries held talks behind closed doors.

In the Cabinet of Ministers, Georgia's Deputy Prime Minister Zurab Kervalishvili received Iran's Minister of Industries Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh and Minister of Roads and Transport Torkan. During the meeting they noted that contacts between Iran and Georgia have widened over the last six months. The two sides discussed cooperation in the spheres of car manufacturing and power and engineering. Iranian delegation members noted the need to restore the air link between Tbilisi and Tehran.

In the Cabinet of Ministers, Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandre Chikvaidze met with Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati. During the meeting Chikvaidze praised the visit to Georgia by the Iranian president. For his part, Velayati welcomed the Georgian Government's policy directed at peaceful settlement of regional conflicts.

Georgia's Deputy Prime Minister Bakur Gulua met with Iranian Minister of Commerce [Yahya] ol-Eshaq. They discussed issues connected with freight shipments, cooperation between the two countries' banks, as well as

setting up joint ventures. The Iranian side expressed interest in constructing transportation vessels in Georgia.

Iran Seeks Contract With Georgia for Repairs

LD2004163695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1434 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, April 20 (Interfax)—Iran is interested in concluding a three-year contract with Georgia on repairing its Iranian Su-25 assault aircraft, which were produced and are still being produced in Tbilisi, deputy Eldar Shengelaya declared in Georgian parliament Thursday in the course of discussion on Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Georgia.

"This is a beneficial contract which will provide the 12,000 personnel of the Tbilisi aviation factory with work," Shengelaya underlined.

Shevardnadze on Shared Views With Rafsanjani

LD2104103095 Tehran IRNA in English 0847 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi, April 21, IRNA—President Eduard Shevardnadze said here Friday [21 April] that he and President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani were of identical views on international issues.

The president made the remark in an interview with the Iranian reporters.

Shevardnadze termed the results of his talks with his Iranian counterpart as "very fruitful" adding that they would further bolster Tehran-Tbilisi ties.

He added that the two countries are to conclude agreements on transportation trade and industry this afternoon.

He declined to elaborate on the transfer of Iranian gas to Georgia.

Prime Minister, U.S. Official Discuss Energy

LD2004140995 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1200 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia today received William White, the U.S. deputy secretary for energy and other officials. They discussed the measures for leading Georgia out of the energy crisis. The prime minister said that the Inguri GES [hydroelectric power station] was currently working out 300-400 megawatts of electricity a day, whereas, it could produce 1.350 million kwh of electricity when working at full capacity. However, today it is impossible as the Inguri GES needs urgent restoration work to be carried out. The same is true of the republic's other hydroelectric and thermal stations. Mr. White noted that the U.S. companies were interested in investing in Georgian hydro

resources provided their rights were protected and interests taken into consideration.

Present at the meeting were: Deputy Prime Minister Teimuraz Basilia, Kent Brown, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United States to Georgia, and others.

White Promises Aid for Energy Crisis

LD2004215295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 20 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] US Energy Undersecretary William White at a private meeting with Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze in Tbilisi on Thursday [21 April] morning held out promises of all round US aid to help overcome the country's energy crisis. White is on a day's visit to the Georgian capital.

Speaking afterwards, Shevardnadze said "very useful cooperation is ahead to help resolve Georgia's acute problem."

He said that one of the export oil pipelines from Azerbaijan may pass through Georgian territory though preferring to speak about this with caution.

For his part, White said the aim of his visit with a group of US experts is to help lead Georgia out of its energy crisis. He said Georgia would gain in additional profits and new jobs if the pipeline passes through its territory.

NIP Appeals to U.S. Leaders To Condemn Treaty

AU2104112195 Tbilisi PORUMI in Georgian 11-18 Apr 95 p 6

["Address to U.S. President Batoni (Georgian polite form of address) William Jefferson Clinton, U.S. Vice President Batoni Albert Gore, U.S. Secretary of State Batoni Warren Christopher, U.S. Secretary of Defense Batoni William Perry, Batoni Robert Dole, Republican leader in the U.S. Senate, Batoni Newt Gingrich, leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, Batoni Thurmond, chairman of U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services, Batoni Jesse Helms, chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Batoni Specter, chairman of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, from the Georgian National Independence Party (NIP) issued (in Tbilisi) on 27 March 1995"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear Batonebo! [plural form of address]

First and foremost, we wish you and your families and relatives good health, a long life, and much happiness and we wish your country success, prosperity, and happiness!

Georgia's state development has entered an extremely dangerous and fateful phase. Georgia's current puppet and collaborationist government, which is headed by the renegade Shevardnadze, has again placed Georgia in a situation in which it is facing the real threat of losing its freedom and state independence. On 21 March 1995, during the visit to Tbilisi by Russian Defense Minister Grachev, a treaty was signed between Russia and Georgia, at the level of defense ministers, which, in the event of its ratification by Parliament, will officially legalize the location of Russian military bases and Armed Forces in Georgia for a period of 25 years.

We are outraged and horrified by the traitorous step taken by Georgia's current government. We will do everything to ensure that the Georgian Parliament does not ratify the document signed by the defense ministers. It is impermissible for Russian Armed Forces to be located on Georgian territory. A complete end should be put to the occupation of Georgia as fast as possible. Georgia should leave Russia's sphere of influence, otherwise it will remain an impotent, backward, and low-quality state. The real threat of Georgia's losing its sovereignty, its territorial disintegration, and the complete collapse of its statehood is growing. The only way toward Georgian independence and general nation-state development and advancement is through maximum rapprochement and integration and the deepening of cooperation and strategic relations with the United States and the civilized and democratic West.

In this difficult and fateful time for our nation and country, we most humbly request that you officially state the United States' negative attitude toward the location of Russian Armed Forces in Georgia and officially express your dissatisfaction with the aforementioned treaty. By taking this step, you will be rendering an invaluable service to the freedom of the Georgian nation and Georgian independence and statehood. Given that Georgia's current government is a big obstacle and a factor hindering Georgia's true freedom, independence, and development and its rapprochement with the West, the Georgian National Independence Party [NIP] calls upon you to cooperate actively with Georgia's pro-Western democratic forces.

The NIP greatly appreciates the efforts of the United States in support of freedom and progress throughout the whole world and expresses the hope that our initiative will meet with the support of the United States.

May God protect you!

With respect and best wishes,

[Signed] The NIP main committee

Irakli Tsereteli (member of the Republic of Georgia Parliament)

Temur Sumbatashvili (member of the Republic of Georgia Parliament)

Vasil Khomariki (member of the Republic of Georgia Parliament)

Vakhtang Asatiani (member of the Republic of Georgia Parliament)

April, Wednesday [5 April], 1995, Tbilisi

(This document was handed over to Deputy Ambassador Jessica Leckroy [name as transliterated] (head of the political and economic department) and the military attache in the U.S. Embassy in the Republic of Georgia).

Estonia

Ministry Expresses 'Concern' Over Kozyrev Statement

LD2104053495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0455 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By Albert Maloveryan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tallinn, 21 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The Estonian Foreign Ministry expressed "concern" in connection with the recent utterances on the possibility of using force to protect the interests of the Russian-speaking population abroad made by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

A Foreign Ministry statement circulated on Thursday [20 April] evening says that the ministry "regards the threats to use military force in relation to sovereign states as not corresponding to international norms."

The ministry says that Russian officials' evaluation of the human rights situation in Estonia "is out of tune with assessments given by many independent foreign observers."

Parliament Annuls 76 Soviet Laws, Declarations

LD1904171295 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Riigikogu today annulled the declaration, adopted in 1940, which rendered all land the property of the people. In addition, the Riigikogu annulled the declaration from the same year about nationalization of banks and large enterprises.

Altogether, the Riigikogu unanimously annulled 76 pieces of legislation adopted in 1940-1991. Justice Minister Paul Varul noted that these pieces of legislation were actually already invalid because they contradicted the Constitution. The minister said the pieces of legislation had to be annulled by the parliament because doing this through courts would have taken too long.

Lithuania

Foreign Ministry: No Permits for Russian Military Planes

LD2004215895 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regards the resolution of the Lithuanian Seimas on control and protection of air space of Lithuania, adopted on Tuesday [18 April], as a political decision of all parties and therefore will not be able to issue permission for the flights of Russian military aircraft through Lithuanian air space, a BNS [Baltic News Service] correspondent was told by a high-ranking official of the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs who refused to be identified by name.

We can interpret the words intolerable flights only as impermissible flights, the Foreign Ministry official noted.

According to him, the Seimas most probably gave serious assessment to all circumstances and problems before adopting this resolution, and therefore the Foreign Ministry has little choice but to implement this new Seimas foreign policy initiative in respect of Russia.

As reported, Lithuania considerably restricted flights of the Russian Air Force over the Lithuanian territory after three Russian combat helicopters had flown over residential districts of Vilnius at low altitude. In April, only a few permits were issued for the flights of military cargo airplanes in Lithuanian air space.

Delegation To Propose Common Baltic Policy at Assembly

LD2004185595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1607 GMT 20 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; compiled by Nikolay Zharebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Lithuanian parliamentary delegation intends to suggest at the Baltic Assembly which will be held in Riga on April 21 and 22 that the coordination of decisions between Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia should be replaced by a common policy of the three countries, Egidijus Bickauskas, deputy chairman of parliament and head of the Lithuanian delegation.

He emphasized that the goal was "further rapprochement of the Baltic countries" in tackling common economic issues, setting up a common legal framework, security and foreign policy.

Bickauskas said that the overriding goal of the common foreign policy must be closer ties in integration of the three countries into the European Union and NATO while the chief security priority will be the setting up of an air space monitoring and defense system.

He doubted, however, that any decision will be made at the assembly on the signing of a defense treaty.

Bickauskas also said that the session will receive drafts of documents on the hostilities in Chechnya but he was not sure that they will be included in the agenda.

The Baltic Assembly is an inter-parliamentary body of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia which was set up when they regained independence.

Slezevicius Not To Attend Session

LD2004115995 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The fact that the Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius and Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys will not attend the sixth session of the Baltic Assembly or

the first session of the Baltic Council that opens in Riga on Friday [21 April] should not, according to the prime minister, be described as a certain political attitude towards interparliamentary and intergovernmental cooperation of the Baltic states.

Slezevicius said that he is not ignoring the meeting which is to take place in the Latvian capital. According to the prime minister, our state has made the greatest contribution to strengthening of cooperation between the Baltic countries. The leaders of the three countries held a meeting in Vilnius last November at the Fifth Baltic Assembly as well as at other international forums. Therefore taking part for the sake of it is not always necessary.

By the way the Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi also decided not to go to Riga.

Lithuania will be represented at the meeting by Albinas Januska, secretary of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, who is in charge of coordinating the work of the Baltic Council of Ministers.

Statement Issued on Compensation for Foreigners

LD2004201795 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement today on compensation and the return of property to citizens of foreign countries.

Here are excerpts of the statement: In an attempt to restore justice, on the basis of laws of Lithuania and on the basis of goodwill, the Government of Lithuania is solving now and will be constructively solving in the future all questions related to giving the remaining property back to all the Jewish communities and Jewish religious communities in Lithuania. Every kind of support will be rendered to these communities by the Government of Lithuania.

The Lithuanian state is not able to give back all the property that was lost during the period of occupation or compensate for it until the Lithuanian state is itself compensated for all the crimes committed by the occupation regimes.

It would be neither fair nor legal to make the Lithuanian state bear all responsibility for these matters and to place the entire burden of compensation on the Lithuanian people, who—for reasons beyond their control—lost their freedom and independence in 1940 and who are now creating a democratic Lithuania, which requires making great sacrifices and facing hardships.

Lithuania once again points out that it demands from the countries which directly participated in the occupation of Lithuania that they provide compensation for the damages caused to Lithuania and its citizens. As soon as this compensation is paid—which is the legal and moral responsibility of the above countries—part of this compensation may be allocated to the citizens of foreign countries to whom the damage was caused by the occupation regimes on the territory of Lithuania.

Assistance from all countries and communities, including the international Jewish community, in order to make the countries which are responsible for the occupation and annexation of Lithuania provide compensation for the damages caused and in order to restore real justice, would be gratefully accepted by the Government of Lithuania.

Prime Minister, Delegation Depart for Denmark

LD2004132295 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Adolfas Slezevicius, prime minister of the Republic of Lithuania, left for the Kingdom of Denmark today. Travelling together with the prime minister are Economy Minister Aleksandras Vasiliauskas, Communications and Information Minister Gintautas Zintelis, and Algirdas Sakalys, secretary at the Ministry of Transport.

During the visit, the Lithuanian prime minister will meet Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, prime minister of the Kingdom of Denmark, and will take part in a conference on investment and business possibilities in Lithuania. Adolfas Slezevicius will deliver a report at the conference on the political and economic situation in our state. He will also take part in discussions on financing businesses in Lithuania, possibilities for Danish investment in Lithuania, and other issues.

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